FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-094
Monday
16 May 1994

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-094 CONTENTS *16 May 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Group of Rio Non-Recognition of Jonassaint *[Hamburg DPA]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Government Minister Lauds Relations With China *[Havana Radio]* 2
Aide-Memoire Signed With Congolese Minister *[Havana TV]* 2
Decree-Law No. 149 Applied Against 10 Persons *[Havana Radio]* 2
Dissident Accused of Revealing State Secrets *[Madrid EFE]* 2
Alarcon Letter to Delegates Explains Process *[Havana Radio]* 2
Lazo on Necessity for Patriots 'To Join Battle' *[Havana Radio]* 3
Politburo Member on Teaching Economic Measures *[Havana Radio]* 3
Politburo Member Garcia Attends Commission Plenum *[Havana Radio]* 4
Use of Cuban Crude in Road Maintenance Discussed *[Havana Radio]* 4
Torres Calls on Sugar Workers To Maintain Goals *[Havana TV]* 4
    Congratulates Workers for Doubling Income *[Havana RAdio]* 5
Economic Contacts for Juragua Plant Work Resumption Sought *[Havana Radio]* 5
Social Attention Commission Discusses Current Issues *[Havana TV]* 5
Electric Union: Additional Power Shortage 14-15 May *[Havana Radio]* 6
Roundup of Economic Activity *[Havana Radio, TV]* 6

Costa Rica

Government Condemns Jonassaint Appointment *[NOTIMEX]* 7

Dominican Republic

Opposition Leader Notes Military Plan To Tamper With Elections *[Madrid EFE]* 7

Haiti

Spokesman Denies U.S. Pressure on Potential Ministers *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Bazin Joins Major Political Groups in Rejecting Jonassaint *[Madrid EFE]* 8
    Says MIDH Rejects Jonassaint's Presidency *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Senator: Jonassaint Appointment 'Usurpation' of Power *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
PANPRA Refuses To Participate in New Government *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Text of Senate Decree Appointing Jonassaint President *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Text of Senate Resolution Declaring Presidential Vacuum *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Calls Naming of New Haitian President 'a Mockery' *[Castries TV]* 11

MEXICO

New Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice Appointed *[Mexico City TV]* 13
Guatemalans, Salvadorans Arrested in Rail Bombing *[Madrid EFE]* 13
State Reaches Agreement With Chiapas Cattlemen *[LA JORNADA 10 May]* 13
Government Secretary, Governors Sign Security Agreement *[LA JORNADA 10 May]* 14

- EZLN Invites PRD Candidate To Visit Conflict Zone *[LA JORNADA 12 May]* 15
- Import of Anti-Hank Charges Argued *[REFORMA 2 May]* 15

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

- Nicaraguan EPS Capture 2 Tourist Fishing Boats *[ACAN]* 17
- Police Clash With Banana Workers; 35 Hurt *[ACAN]* 17
- ROC President Urges China To Adopt Power Transfer *[Taipei Radio]* 17

El Salvador

- Court President Criticizes Foreign Push for Constitutional Reforms *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 12 May]* 18

Guatemala

- Belizean Troops Enter Guatemalan Territory *[LA REPUBLICA 13 May]* 19
- Army Anticipates Major Problems After Peace Agreement *[PRENSA LIBRE 12 May]* 19
- URNG Imposes War Tax on Farm Owners *[Guatemala City TV]* 19
- UN Mission: Importance of Human Rights Verification *[Guatemala City TV]* 20

Honduras

- President Reviews Government's First 100 Days *[LA TRIBUNA 11 May]* 21

Nicaragua

- VP Doubts U.S. Aid To Stop Over Ownership Issue *[LA PRENSA 11 May]* 26
  - Chamorro Says Deadline Not Needed *[Managua TV]* 27
  - FSLN's Ortega Rejects U.S. Stand *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 14 May]* 27
- EPS Seizes Costa Rican Boat, U.S. Citizens *[NOTIMEX]* 28

Panama

- Perez Balladares on U.S. Military Presence *[Mexico City TV]* 28
- Vote-Counting Board: Perez Balladares Victor *[Panama City TV]* 29
- Perez Balladares on Presidential Proclamation *[Panama City TV]* 30
- Future Cabinet Members Accept Nominations *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 11 May]* 30
- President-Elect Names New Finance Minister *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 14 May]* 31
- Arnulfista Party Declines Offer of Ministries *[Panama City TV]* 31
- Correction—Perez Balladares on U.S., Cuba Relations 31

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

- Three Injured When Tear Gas Grenade Explodes at Japanese Embassy *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 32
- Menem Opens 'American Week,' Lauds U.S. Relations *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 32
- Di Tella Visits Turkmenistan Sugar Mill, Ends Two-Day Visit *[Madrid EFE]* 32
- Roundup of Economic Reports *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 33

Bolivia

- Aranibar Says Extradition Treaty With U.S. on Government Agenda *[EL MUNDO 9 May]* 33
- Official Praises Proposal by U.S. Assistant Secretary Watson *[LA RAZON 9 May]* 34
- UCS Leader Says 'Little Impasse' Resolved With Government *[La Paz TV]* 34

Brazil

Soldiers Occupy Porto Alegre Federal Police Unit *[Brasilia Radio]* 34
    Franco Orders Intervention Continuation *[Brasilia Radio]* 34
    Franco Orders Army To Leave Facilities *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 35
Economist's Comment Reportedly Hurts Lula's Efforts in U.S. *[O GLOBO 13 May]* 35
U.S. Confirms 'Neutral' Stance Regarding Elections *[Madrid EFE]* 35
PT Document Calls for Action Against Economic Plan *[O GLOBO 13 May]* 36
Lula Denies PT Responsibility for 'Wave of Strikes' *[O GLOBO 13 May]* 36
Influence of Polls on Political Contenders Seen *[VEJA 6 Apr]* 36

Chile

Canadian Trade Official Favors Chilean NAFTA Membership *[Madrid EFE]* 38
Three Cuban Sailors Defect, Request Political Asylum *[Santiago TV]* 38
Carabineros Director Stange To Resume Duties *[Santiago TV]* 39
Pinochet on Stange, Relations With Government *[QUE PASA 9 Apr]* 40

Colombia

Failed Assassination of Santander Governor Reported *[NOTIMEX]* 42
Candidates Samper, Pastrana Debate 12 May *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 43

Ecuador

Workers Detain Minister, Clash With Police *[NOTIMEX]* 51
    Workers Report on Injuries *[Quito Radio]* 52

Peru

Text of Approved 'Habeas Data' Law *[EL PERUANO 3 May]* 52
Citizens' Participation Rights Law *[EL PERUANO 3 May]* 54

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Abreu Outlines Foreign Policy *[LA MANANA 3 May]* 56
Angel Maria Gianola Appointed Interior Minister *[Montevideo Radio]* 57

Venezuela

Government Opposes Military Action in Haiti *[Madrid EFE]* 58
Interior Minister: Conditions Not Right for Guerrilla Resurgence *[Caracas Radio]* 58
Military Court To Probe Student Disturbances *[Caracas Radio]* 58
Newspaper Report Cites Alleged Coup Plot *[NOTIMEX]* 59

Group of Rio Non-Recognition of Jonassaint

PA1305225094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2039 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Brasilia, 13 May (DPA)—In a communique released in this capital, which is currently hosting the "pro tempore" Secretariat of the Group of Rio, a bloc of 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries, the group announced today that it will not acknowledge the appointment of a provisional president in Haiti.

In the communique, the Group of Rio states that "the Haitian crisis can be resolved only if unrestricted respect is shown for the Governor's Island Agreement which calls for the prompt return of Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide to the exercise of his constitutional powers in Haiti. The communique urges "the de facto authorities who illegally hold power in Haiti to submit to the UN and OAS decisions which mirror the firm hope of the international community."

This Latin American group's reaction came two days after the military leaders of Haiti made Emile Jonassaint provisional president of Haiti, following the Haitian Parliament's declaration that the post was vacant.

Jonassaint's rise has been interpreted as a sign that the Haitian military is not considering yielding to international pressure or sanctions and is not about to fulfill the Governor's Island Agreement which acknowledges President Aristide, who was overthrown in 1991, as the legitimate leader of Haiti.

Cuba

Government Minister Lauds Relations With China

PA1305195594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Qian Qichen, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of China, and Cuban Government Minister Jose Naranjo expressed their best wishes in Beijing for an expansion of the bilateral and friendly relations of cooperation between the two countries.

The Cuban minister hailed the success of the reform and opening process under way in China and the great progress achieved in local economic construction. Jose Naranjo is on his third visit to that Asian country at the invitation of its Foreign Ministry.

Aide-Memoire Signed With Congolese Minister

FL1405015394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Representatives of Cuba and Congo today signed a document containing the aide-memoire of the visit of Congolese Minister of Scientific and Technological Development Buenaventure Embaye.

The document was signed by Noemi Beneitez, vice minister for foreign investment and economic cooperation, and by Mr. Embaye. The aide-memoire contains the program carried out by the Congolese delegation since its arrival on 6 May at the Jose Marti International Airport, its visits to scientific institutions; meetings at central organizations, especially those related to public health, agriculture, sugarcane by-products; and exchange of scientific-technological information.

Decree-Law No. 149 Applied Against 10 Persons

PA1305214394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban authorities have taken measures against 10 persons in Pinar del Rio and Sancti Spiriti, by virtue of the application of decree-law No. 149 that establishes the confiscation of property and assets of all those who have illegally acquired wealth.

An official of the Attorney General's Office explained that [words indistinct] and that such measures do not imply anyone's arrest. The same source added that decree-law No. 149 is established in chapters 60 and 61 of the Cuban Constitution. As of this moment, those persons accused of illegally gaining wealth have 10 days to demonstrate with authentic documents that the property in custody of the authorities was obtained legally. If this cannot be done, the Attorney General's Office official added, [words indistinct] if it is proven that the persons acquired their wealth illegally, the property will be transferred to the Cuban Government.

Dissident Accused of Revealing State Secrets

PA1405044394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2104 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Havana, 13 May (EFE)—Cuban dissident Francisco Chaviano, who was arrested at his house on Saturday, has been accused of "revealing secrets" about state security, while continuing to undergo the corresponding investigation process, family sources told EFE. If at the end of the investigation, formal proceedings under this charge are begun, Chaviano might be sentenced to between seven and 15 years in prison.

His wife, Ana Aguililla, who was able to visit him today at the State Security offices, said "he has never worked with state secrets," emphasizing that "his work on behalf of human rights has always been public." She also said today that she sent a letter to President Fidel Castro to tell him she was not permitted to leave any books for Chaviano to read and that "that is unconstitutional."

Francisco Chaviano, president of the illegal National Council for Civil Rights in Cuba [Consejo Nacional de Derechos Civiles de Cuba], was arrested after a police search in which documents and part of the files of that organization were seized. The organization is mainly involved in investigating cases of "rafters" lost at sea.

Dissident sources contend that shortly before the arrest, an unidentified individual arrived at Chaviano's house and gave him a document, "which he did not even have time to read because the police stormed into the house and searched it."

Francisco Chaviano, 40, was a natural science professor at a secondary school when he tried to illegally leave the country aboard a vessel in 1989 and was given a one-year sentence.

Alarcon Letter to Delegates Explains Process

FL1305224494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] For the second time during the current seventh mandate of the local People's Government bodies, the process of having delegates present a progress report to their voters will take place in the nation's more than 13,800 electoral districts, during the months of May and June. This seventh mandate began on 10 January 1993, when the Municipal Assemblies of the People's Government were installed.

Days back, the president of Cuba's parliament, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, sent a letter to these delegates. The text of this letter explains that this process is spread over a two-month period because of the experience of the preceding year. This will make it possible to schedule meetings in such a way as to permit attendance by the greatest possible number of cadres and officials of the administrative bodies of each place, as well as by delegates to the Provincial Assemblies and by deputies elected by those districts.

Alarcon's letter adds that this new progress report process has been conceived as a continuation of the effort increasingly to improve the method of tightening relations between delegates and their voters, and so as to explain the need to provide concrete and essential operational information to the people on the current situation and how to face it. Alarcon also calls for the people's participation in the effort to face the current situation and to support the measures that may be adopted in the quest for solutions.

Alarcon's letter concludes by saying that the meetings will follow the special sessions of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] and that we must do everything possible so that these meetings will help enhance the people's understanding of the need to take the necessary steps to streamline internal finances and to promote economic efficiency.

Everything seems to indicate that delegates and deputies from each municipality and province will have the appropriate scenario to promote these contacts with the voters of each district so that the progress reports will no longer be the classic rendering of accounts, which are often mechanical and tiresome, but a collective action of exchange of opinions, explanations, arguments, and information about the solutions found for current problems, and so as to resume the talks on agreements and declarations by the ANPP in its 1 and 2 May sessions.

The people in general will be able to support once again the announced proposals for internal economic and financial adjustment measures conceived as the most important steps taken over the past few years to maintain this process of social equity.

Lazo on Necessity for Patriots 'To Join Battle'

FL1405151394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 14 May 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Yesterday, a plenary of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] was held at El Caney Municipality where people in this area of Santiago de Cuba Province asked Division General Sixto Batista Santana to express to Fidel and Raul the assurance that they can count on them during this battle.

During the plenary, Esteban Lazo Hernandez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Santiago de Cuba, made a special intervention in which he pointed out the moment requires all the firmness of the revolutionaries; in that sense, he stated:

[Lazo] "That is the reason I say that we are in times of very profound thoughts that reflect the state of mind of revolutionaries, patriots, and Cubans. We must get everyone to join the battle. But let us not forget that during these difficult times we must win the battle with real revolutionaries and with patriots. We will not win this battle with the mediocre, with those who change sides, or with pessimists. This battle must be won by patriots. We must win this battle for the future of our fatherland."

In another part of his intervention, before members of the CDR in El Caney, Esteban Lazo said that despite the efforts made by the Revolution there is still ingratitude; he gave an example from the life of Jose Marti:

[Lazo] "Marti said to Gomez, when he made him head of the Liberating Army: I make you head of the Liberating Army knowing that you will accept; I can only offer you the sacrifice of your life and the possible ingratitude of men. Today, there is ingratitude, but above it is the honor of Cubans."

After talking about these realities, Lazo, who is also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, pointed out that despite all the difficulties, our economy is beginning to recover. He gave specific examples.

[Lazo] "We have our refinery. How long was our refinery out of service? Today it is operating. That is an expression of recovery. Rente, which was producing between 37 and 38 megawatts, is now producing 230 megawatts, and, by the end of the year, should have all its units ready to work. This gas plant that is near here [words indistinct]. How about the textile factory? We have established a plan with the Mexicans for producing approximately 18 million square meters. In other words, we are seeing a recovery in our economy."

These were comments made by Politburo member Esteban Lazo Hernandez, vice president of the Council of State, in a special intervention made at the plenary held with CDR members in El Caney, where, in the presence of Sixto Batista Santana, the application of decree-law No. 149 was affirmed.

Politburo Member on Teaching Economic Measures

FL1305224194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Cuban Communist Party Politburo member Maria de los Angeles Garcia has stressed the need to consolidate teaching methods in each school to achieve efficiency in the coming school period. On concluding in Havana the national meeting on teaching methodology in preparation for the next school year, she said that we must generalize the experience on joint methodological work and systematize that method to perfect relations among the province, the municipality, and the school.

Maria de los Angeles Garcia added that this meeting must verify the results of this method and see whether its implementation is advisable or not. She said that children and adolescents are also protagonists of the economic adjustments being adopted in the country and for this reason the teachers must explain to them the causes of these measures so that they may find the just answers to their concerns.

At the preparatory meeting for the next school period, Maria de los Angeles Garcia stressed the importance of increasingly linking the school with the family and the community. She added that informal education must be consolidated so that teaching will reach all young people, namely those who are under five years of age and are not going to the childcare centers. She added that the optimization process is beginning a special stage because there are many points that will require the effort, intelligence, and political touch of all in order to conclude successfully this stage.

She added that the evaluation of teachers must be an element of incentive, control, and differentiation of teachers, in addition to being just.

Education Minister Luis Ignacio Gomez Gutierrez also participated in the meeting in preparation for the next school period, and he also stressed the changes being made in the registration of students for adult education. He added that these changes are made in accordance with the current economic situation that must be changed. He said that appropriate measures are being adopted and will be released soon.

The education minister added that adult education cannot become a refuge of teachers who are not suitably trained to give classes in those centers, and for this reason they must be given further training in education.

He added that English teachers must be trained further to give classes in high schools, where they are most needed, perhaps more than in the language schools.

Politburo Member Garcia Attends Commission Plenum

FL1305161694 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The participation of the family and the school in attending to today's social problems and to the education of young people needs to be more profound, and more systematic action needs to be taken, said Politburo member Maria de los Angeles Garcia at the eighth plenum of the National Social Prevention and Attention Commission. The participants at this meeting said that now is the time to confront, rather than discuss, problems and to take cooperative action to solve them.

The newspaper GRANMA's report on this matter adds that the meeting also assessed the work of its institutions in 1993; employment of leisure time; and, especially, social phenomena associated with tourism, and the family and social complacency that sometimes accompanies the manifestations of such phenomena. The plenum also analyzed elderly care. It is studying a specialized program at the polyclinics that aims to benefit the elderly.

Use of Cuban Crude in Road Maintenance Discussed

FL1305161594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The enormous potential in using the crude oil extracted in Varadero in waterproofing road surfaces and maintaining road infrastructure has been analyzed and discussed at a national workshop held in Matanzas.

Specialists and professionals from all over Cuba gathered in Matanzas and met in two committees: one on waterproofing; one on road maintenance. This gathering was chaired by engineers Jesus Perez Othon and Ramon Rodriguez, respectively first vice minister of Basic Industry and first vice minister of Construction.

Perez Othon discussed the current situation of Cuban heavy crude and the possibilities for making deliveries to construction enterprises. Rodriguez, for his part, talked about the need to generalize experiences with using Cuban crude because the results are very good if these experiences are properly applied, if the proper technical controls are observed.

The results in waterproofing road surfaces in Matanzas have been very good. Matanzas has been applying what is known as Varadero Asphalt for over 15 years now, and these experiences are already being successfully implemented in other provinces, like Havana City Province.

The road infrastructure must be repaired and given maintenance immediately, and Cuban crude is being used on stretches of the central highway, such as the stretch of road linking Camaguey and Ciego de Avila. This product is also being used to repair the Via Blanca, and it will be used to (?tackle the potholes) in the cities.

Upon closing this event, engineer Jorge Revuelta, vice minister of Construction, said all the nation's provinces will have to work hard at using Cuban crude, and that the technicians of the different provinces will seek better variants so as to become more efficient and improve quality.

Torres Calls on Sugar Workers To Maintain Goals

FL1305131794 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 94

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres has called on workers in the southeastern region to maintain their pledges to fulfill their current harvest goals. Heavy rains have been disrupting the progress of the harvest in this part of the nation and were the main reason for the poor results achieved in the last 10 days.

[Torres] "The order is clear: We are to continue fighting and have to grind the very last cane to extract the maximum sugar."

In Guantanamo, Torres chaired the 10-day progress meeting in the southeastern region, where the host province surpassed the neighboring provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Granma.

Torres acknowledged that the sugar harvest is the most difficult task within the sugarcane production program. Cuba's goal is to exceed by several hundred tons last year's harvest, which failed to produce approximately $450 million of income to Cuba. The persistent rains have now added to the known difficulties in the southeastern region.

[Torres] "We can no longer ask for the same results as those that were expected in other times; but we can look for the maximum, the variants, to grind with the most efficiency possible."

In this 10-day harvest progress meeting, Havana Province cane harvesters were praised for reaching their sugar production goal. Also stressed at the meeting was the necessity to maintain an elevated planting rate to ensure increased production in the next harvest. Guantanamo Province announced that, by the end of May, it will be the first to reach its spring planting program of 180 caballerias.

Congratulates Workers for Doubling Income

FL1305161494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Today, Politburo member Nelson Torres, who is also sugar industry minister, congratulated workers at the Jose Maceo bulk sugar terminal in Boqueron, Guantanamo Province for the terminal's designation as the most efficient in Cuba since the beginning of the sugar harvest.

This terminal, located right next to the Yankee naval base, had profits of $125,000 during the first four months of 1994 as a result of its prompt dispatch of ships. To date, the terminal's port workers have loaded some 20 ships from different countries, and have earned $1.05 in profits for every ton moved, which is more than twice the income earned during the last such identical period.

Economic Contacts for Juragua Plant Work Resumption Sought

FL1405164294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 May 94

["Science and Technology" section by Eduardo Gonzalez]

[Text] Cuba has stood out in its participation in the 12 projects included in the program for the development of nuclear science and technology in Latin America. Such were the remarks of Dr. Daniel Cordorniu, vice secretary of the secretariat of nuclear affairs, during a recent news conference.

Next week, a meeting will be held in Bogota, Colombia, by the regional cooperation agreement program [programa arreglos regionales cooperativos] for the development of nuclear sciences and technology in Latin America, in which our scientists will play an important role.

The secretariat of nuclear affairs carries out hundreds of projects for the use of these techniques in the diagnosis, prevention, and healing of human and animal diseases, animal nutrition and reproduction, the creation of new varieties of useful plants, the rational use of fertilizers, the detection of defects in construction, oil drilling and extraction, studies in environmental contamination, nuclear safety, and many other areas.

In November, our country will host two regional workshops on advances in the use of nuclear energy, the development of radiopharmaceuticals, and on the final meeting of the Latin American project for the use of nuclear energy, which for five years has given nations of the region access to advanced technologies in this field.

Only four Latin American countries are pursuing research in this field: Cuba, with almost 200 entities that use nuclear techniques; Brazil; Chile; and Venezuela. It is for that reason that, despite pressures and the Yankee blockade, our country was welcomed into the Latin American section of the American Nuclear Society, which in July will hold its annual meeting in Argentina. This important meeting will include a roundtable in which, for the first time, the situation of the nuclear power plants in the region will be analyzed in a multilateral approach.

Dr. Daniel Cordorniu also announced that efforts are being made to establish an economic association that will allow resumption of the work at the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant.

Social Attention Commission Discusses Current Issues

FL1305131694 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Current issues of concern for the population were discussed today at the plenum of the National Social Prevention and Attention Commission. One of the issues discussed was actions against social phenomena that degrade moral values. Female and male prostitution, streetwalkers, and pimping were terms that gave rise to comments stressing the need for legal support and repression to punish these activities closely tied to tourism. The effectiveness of recent police operations to preserve an orderly society were also acknowledged. On the other hand, it was mentioned that the solution to the problem ought to lie in prevention and in teaching the youth in school to repudiate socially sanctionable behaviors.

In workshops being conducted in several provinces, students are found to have a noncritical and, of course, tolerant attitude due to a lack of information. This reaffirms that the home must take on an increased level of involvement and responsibility.

Among the issues discussed by the commission were community efforts in youth recreation and praise for the accomplishments attained by the People's Councils working closely with political, cultural, and sports organizations. There are already 18 discotheques nationwide and several more will be opened this year; there will also be a significant increase in youth clubs.

The care of people with mental problems was also discussed and it was clear that even though the Cuban state, with scarce resources right now, gives priority to these cases, the legal responsibility for the mentally ill lies with the family, which in certain cases relinquishes their care.

The plenum of the commission discussed very contemporary issues which generally cause concern to the population. It was a very up-to-date and down-to-earth plenum.

Electric Union: Additional Power Shortage 14-15 May

FL1305192794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Ministry of Basic Industry's Electric Union has announced that the deficit in electricity will continue this week and will be similar to what it has been to date, but with a slight increase on 14 and 15 May because a unit from the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Thermoelectric Plant in Cienfuegos will go off-line.

The Electric Union also announced that the parts needed for repairs to the thermoelectric plants in order to stabilize generating capacity are continuing to enter the country.

At the present time, the maintenance program is progressing well and the generating capacity is gradually being increased; the average deficit is 25 percent lower than last April's.

Roundup of Economic Activity

FL1305222494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments carried by Cuban media in Spanish between 9 and 13 May:

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 9 May reports that a small gold mine in Pinar del Rio is expected to yield approximately 300 kg of gold this year. The mining complex uses Brazilian technology and employs over 100 workers.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 10 May reports that 1,630 caballerias of tobacco in Pinar del Rio will be financed by the Spanish Tobacco Company. The southern part of Pinar del Rio Province, including San Luis and Consolacion del Sur Municipalities, was chosen by the Spanish Tobacco Company for financing in a project that will bring in hard currency. The financing is excellent because Cuba can use the money however it deems necessary—e.g., for fertilizers, herbicides, shoes, or clothing—so as to ensure that the land produces maximally. A local official said the financing will be repaid in tobacco.

Radio Reloj at 1400 GMT on 11 May reports that workers from the Sergio Soto Refinery in Cabaiguan, Sancti Spiritus Province, have produced, experimentally, the first few tons of oil for electric transformers. This will mean a substantial contribution to the national economy. This oil, produced from crude extracted from deposits in the vicinity of Cristales and Pina, is essential for electric transformers. The Sergio Soto Refinery also produces other important petroleum by-products, such as basic oil.

Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 12 May report that following significant improvements, the Hermanos Diaz Oil Refinery in Santiago de Cuba has attained a production capability that allows this refinery to take up the slack while the Nico Lopez Oil Refinery in Havana undergoes general maintenance.

Radio Reloj at 1930 GMT on 11 May reports that potato production in Pinar del Rio Province increased by 30,000 quintals in 1994 as compared to 1993. More than 203,000 quintals have been harvested. According to the Pinar del Rio Province Agriculture Ministry office, the country's cold-storage facilities contain enough potatoes to supply the population for the rest of the year.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 12 May reports that there are approximately 10,000 self-employed people in Matanzas Province, or 15 percent of the national total. "Of these 10,000 people, 60 percent are men; 2,000 are women; 2,000 are retirees. Some 1,500 of the women are housewives, and almost 5,000 people are current jobholders." There are approximately 100 applications for self- employment permits weekly.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 13 May reports that since its reorganization, Cubanacan Incorporated has a new transport company called (Veracuba). The report adds that the transport management in 1993 obtained an income of more than $13 million and projects an income between $16 and $17 million in 1994. This will represent an increase of between 20 and 25 percent over the same period the previous year. Thus, after six years of work, the company has achieved an increase of between 30 and 40 percent. The new company is prepared to provide more and better services with a very young, efficient, and trained personnel who can speak several languages.

In the same newscast Radio Rebelde reports that 140 houses have been built in Holguin to shelter agricultural and livestock workers. These are the first of 1,000 houses to be built in the province this year. The report adds that tobacco production is expected to increase by approximately 40,000 quintals in Pinar del Rio. In Camaguey sugarcane workers intend to plant 1,765 caballerias during May. The report concludes by announcing a plan for the construction of seven small hydroelectric plants in Granma Province to increase current generating capacity by 11.6 megawatts/hour.

Costa Rica

Government Condemns Jonassaint Appointment

PA1405201994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2331 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] San Jose, 13 May (NOTIMEX) —Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Naranjo has called the appointment of Emile Jonassaint as acting president of Haiti disgraceful. Jonassaint took the oath of office last Wednesday.

Naranjo told the media that "the international democratic community cannot accept this maneuver by the Haitian military, led by General Raoul Cedras. It is intended to impose upon the country a president who does not represent the will of the people."

He added that "we cannot accept this new show of force by the Haitian military. We condemn the arbitrary appointment of Jonassaint and share the hope for a return to democracy in this Caribbean nation."

Naranjo affirmed that the Haitian crisis has had a detrimental affect on the people, who "grow ever poorer and suffer the tragedy of watching their civil rights diminished and violated every day."

Dominican Republic

Opposition Leader Notes Military Plan To Tamper With Elections

PA1305190594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1524 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 13 May (EFE)—Opposition leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said today that high-ranking military officers have discussed a plan, which was disavowed by President Joaquin Balaguer, to prevent the transfer of power to the opposition if it wins the Dominican elections,

According to Pena Gomez, two "friendly" generals informed him of a meeting held last Monday at the Defense Secretariat Operations Center attended by Lt. Gen. Constantino Matos Villanueva, Armed Forces secretary, and other generals who were not identified.

Pena Gomez said a plan was discussed at the meeting to allow the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) of President Balaguer to retain power in case it loses the 16 May elections, but a group of officers at the meeting opposed the measure.

The opposition leader did not specify which position was taken by the secretary of the Armed Forces.

Pena Gomez said the subject of the meeting was made known to President Joaquin Balaguer, who disavowed the same and asked the Armed Forces to keep its distance from the electoral and democratic process.

The leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) praised the president's position and the professionalism of the Armed Forces and asked Balaguer to discipline the military officers who proposed the plan discussed at the meeting, which was "recorded" by the two officers who reported the same.

Pena Gomez' accusations come 24 hours after the Armed Forces issued a communique, signed by Lt. Gen. Matos Villanueva and other generals, expressing their willingness to guarantee constitutional order and peace during the election. The Armed Forces warned that any attempt to alter the results would be strongly dealt with.

In a televised appearance, Pena Gomez also asked that the Haitian border be closed for three days, next Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday—Monday is election day—to prevent "adventurers on both sides" from interfering in the elections.

Pena Gomez' request stems from a minority party report that sectors close to the government and the PRSC plan to cause incidents at the border during the election to alarm the population and influence the elections results.

Haiti

Spokesman Denies U.S. Pressure on Potential Ministers

FL1305210494 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Two days after he took office and was installed as provisional president of the Republic by the Army and the unofficial Office of the Senate, Justice Emile Jonassaint has not yet published the names of his government. According to Dominique Levanti of AFP, who quoted well-informed sources, Mr. Jonassaint's steps toward formation of a government are allegedly hindered by strong U.S. pressure on those who could be appointed ministers in order to dissuade them, a report denied by the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince through its spokesman, Stanley Schrager.

[Schrager] "No, not at all. The U.S. Government is putting no pressure on this new—this so-called government. But I would say instead that the reason the so-called president cannot find ministers who would like to participate in his government is that no self-respecting Haitians would be part of such a government. That is the problem. It is not pressure from elsewhere that is preventing this so-called government from functioning."

On the part of the supporters of the implementation of Article 149 of the Constitution, this delay in the formation of the government is explained by the fact that attorney Jonassaint finds himself in an awkward position because he has to choose from an overabundance of names. This is, for instance, the opinion of Hubert De Ronceray, who is a possible prime minister.

[De Ronceray] "Once again, I cannot answer with precise explanations, but I suppose that President Jonassaint must be facing a pretty wide range of proposals. He must—perhaps with clear-mindedness—be checking all those proposals so as to end up in a correct choice which meets all the criteria that are essential on this occasion."

It should be noted that several names are circulating for the post of prime minister. Rumor has it that the latter is allegedly a woman, a lawyer who is well-known in Port-au-Prince for her statements in favor of the coup d'etat. But there is a major problem for this government: the matter of due ratification by the two chambers of the parliament. It is allegedly almost impossible to reach a quorum, given that the socialists and the National Front for Change and Democracy members have dissociated themselves from the partisans of Article 149 and did not participate in the session held on the installation of Justice Jonassaint—unless, of course, the procedures established by the Constitution are ignored, as was the case on 11 May.

Bazin Joins Major Political Groups in Rejecting Jonassaint

PA1305190794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1541 GMT 13 May 94

[By Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 13 May (EFE)— De facto President Emile Jonassaint, 84, and his allies have been isolated by the country's major political sectors despite the fact that Jonassaint is supported by the coupist military.

Former de facto Prime Minister Marc Bazin has joined the voices condemning Jonassaint's designation as provisional president.

A minority of legislators, with the backing of the top military commands and General Raoul Cedras, leader of the military coup that toppled Constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September 1991, named Jonassaint to replace him. "There is no serious basis for what happened on 11 May; not at a political consensus level, a constitutional level, or in foreign relations," stated Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti (MIDH). According to Bazin, the "Jonassaint solution" complicates and delays a solution to the crisis in Haiti because it closes the door to dialogue. In remarks made on the radio, Bazin said his party disagreed with the designation and considered it "a dead-end street." He went on to ask for "a realistic compromise to rescue Haiti's democracy and independence."

"I hope," he said, "that before 21 May, the date the total embargo against this country goes into force, we can prevent the escalation toward absurdity and desolation."

Ferge Gilles of the Haitian Nationalist Progressive Revolutionary Party (Pampra), said socialists will not participate in the future government of Jonassaint and called for the resumption of dialogue and negotiation.

With the rejection of these two political groups, Pampra and MIDH, which have representatives in the Assembly, as well as of the constitutionalists, Jonassaint and his allies have been practically isolated, which could have an impact on the formation of his cabinet.

Louis E. Roy, considered the father of the Haitian Constitution and a colleague of Jonassaint in the Assembly that drafted the Constitution, said it saddened him that a former colleague went along with a military ploy.

Roy made those remarks from exile in Canada and said he understands that the "judge was pressured by those who forced Aristide to abandon power."

Only Humbert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development (MDN) and proponent of the appointment of a new president to replace Aristide, has endorsed Jonassaint's appointment.

Outgoing Prime Minister Robert Malval; Aristide spokesman Jean Claude Martineau; Victor Benoit, leader of the National Congress of Democratic Forces (Conacom); and the National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD) that took Aristide to power have condemned Jonassaint's "illegal" and "illegitimate" designation. The Haitian Workers Federation [Central de los Trabajadores Haitianos] said Bernard Sansaricq, Jonassaint, and those who have supported the ploy will be chiefly responsible for any possible foreign intervention. Banes Cherestal, secretary general of the National Federation of Popular Organizations, described the appointment as a new coup d'etat that will exacerbate the extreme poverty of the Haitian people.

Jonassaint has begun consultations to name the new prime minister, a task that will be difficult in view of the threats by the U.S. Government to cancel the entry visas of those who join his government.

Says MIDH Rejects Jonassaint's Presidency

FL1305212094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Marc Louis Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, rejects the initiative from the senators of the [Senate] Office led by Sansaricq. It is a dead-end operation, the MIDH president asserted in our microphone:

[Begin Bazin recording] The 11 May operation has no serious basis, neither on the constitutional level nor on the level of relations with other nations. Furthermore, the fact that it closes the door to dialogue inevitably complicates and delays the solution to the crisis.

In regards to the embargo—in other respects as reprehensible—far from lightening the consequences, it is going to exacerbate getting supplies, the impossibility of export, increasing prices, the exchange rate of the gourde, unemployment, and, in a more general way, the living conditions of the huge majority of our compatriots whose survival in the current situation depends every day on a miracle and challenges all rationality. The 11 May operation is therefore a dead-end situation. MIDH rejects it.

Today there is no longer time to cloud the issues by adding fuel to the flames. In these worrisome hours when we are openly threatened by foreign military intervention, the priority of priorities for every Haitian should be to do everything possible to spare the country new crises and tough humiliation.

Therefore, each of us should agree to sacrifice part of our pride and our ambition and consent, in good faith, to a realistic compromise which reinforces the chance of democracy and safeguards our independence. The nation expects the effort of such a compromise. The nation is not resigned to the inevitable. It is, on the contrary, convinced that with a minimum of courage and a sense of responsibility nothing is impossible and that from now until 21 May, we would be spared an escalation toward absurdity and distress. [end recording]

Senator: Jonassaint Appointment 'Usurpation' of Power

FL1305205094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpt] The president of the Senate, Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, this week issued a statement condemning the installation of Justice Emile Jonassaint as Haitian president. Here is this statement:

On 11 May, a tragic new scene was played at the Haitian parliament with the alleged appointment of Justice Emile Jonassaint as provisional president of Haiti. We are frankly surprised that Attorney Jonassaint, who was a senator of the Republic, judge of the highest judicial authority of the country, and president of the 1987 Constituent Assembly, agreed to be a party to such a joke by shouldering the responsibility for such a crude violation of the same Constitution [of 1987], writes Firmin Jean-Louis.

As president of the National Assembly, we make a point of drawing the attention of the entire nation and the international community in general to the fact that this new abuse of authority is assumed by only five out of 17 senators of the normalized Senate and by eight senators elected in the contested 18 January 1993 elections who are awaiting the verdict of the arbitration committee provided for in the New York pact.

As of that moment, as an institution which has rules governing its functioning and a defined procedure, the Haitian parliament is not bound by this new political adventure which has no grandeur and no future. It is not a parliamentary act. Consequently, it is a usurpation of power and must be considered as such, Jean-Louis says. [passage omitted]

PANPRA Refuses To Participate in New Government

FL1305213094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The socialists will not be part of the future government. PANPRA [Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party Of Haiti] leader Serge Gilles so stated this morning at our microphone. He was the guest in the morning broadcast:

[Begin recording] [Gilles] The position of my party is clear. It is the same position as that of the socialist bloc. We have expressed it already. It is clear. We are against Article 149 and therefore we do not agree. This government does not have our support.

[Reporter Renois] Does that mean, Serge Gilles, that PANPRA will not agree to participate in the formation of the future government that Mr. Jonassaint will establish?

[Gilles] Not at all. Not at all. We have said so. For the past two weeks, it has been clear. We are against Article 149; since the coup d'etat, we have been against Article 149. We have always said that a negotiated return is necessary. It is necessary to go back to the negotiation table, to dialogue.

[Renois] In your opinion, is negotiation still possible today?

[Gilles] Negotiation is always possible; I am convinced of that. Dialogue is always possible. But good faith is necessary on both sides, by the two protagonists. This is what we say. And for a dialogue to be fruitful, it is necessary to listen to each other. It cannot be a dialogue of the deaf.

[Renois] Are not the doors closed for this dialogue that your party hopes for?

[Gilles] No! I hope that the doors remain open. We want to force them. It is necessary that the doors remain open. It is necessary that we return to negotiations. It is necessary to return to dialogue. For us, it is an obligatory passage. This crisis, as we have said, is so deep that it will not be solved with sanctions, not with an embargo, not with Articles 149, 148, or 111. This crisis cannot be solved with a constitutional cover. A political compromise is necessary. It is necessary to reach a compromise. It is necessary that the protagonists resign themselves to finding this compromise on specific points regarding Haitian society, the Haitian people, the Haitian nation. [end recording]

Text of Senate Decree Appointing Jonassaint President

FL1305195294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Decree of the Senate of the Republic:

In view of the 1987 Constitution in its provisions governing the matter;

In view of the resolution of the Senate of the Republic dated 10 April 1994, taking note of the vacuum in the executive with the legal consequences;

Considering that despite extreme urgency and imminent peril, the Chamber of Deputies has still not ruled on the necessity and the method to fill this vacuum;

Considering that the National Assembly was due to meet on Monday, 9 May 1994, in order to close the seventh session of the 45th Legislature and that this Assembly was duly convened but could not be held;

Considering, in fact, the working difficulties inherent in the antipatriotic behavior of the legislators who for several months have blocked the administration of the national life for the purpose of satisfying certain particular interests;

Considering that the nation's future and present cannot be left to the caprice of irresponsible citizens;

Considering the gravity and the imminence of the danger of a total split threatening the Haitian nation through a vast plot aimed at the destabilization of institutions;

Considering the illegal and abusive attitude of the international community, taking advantage of the right of force as much through threats of military intervention as through the passage of Resolution 917 of the U.N. Security Council, which constitutes a death sentence without appeal against the first black republic of the New World [applause];

Considering the urgent necessity to endow the country with a head of state and to reestablish the authority of the state to face this situation, the Senate of the Republic orders:

Article 1: The resolution of the Senate of the Republic dated 10 April 1994 will be enforced, appending the seal of the Senate of the Republic, in view of the impossibility of the parliament's meeting in National Assembly.

Article 2: The Senate calls on all patriotic deputies and the other responsible sectors of the nation to support it in the enforcement of a resolution on the immediate nomination of the president of the Court of Cassation [Supreme Court] to the provisional Presidency of the Republic. [applause]

Article 3: The present parliamentary act will be announced, published, and executed through the diligence of the Office of the Senate of the Republic.

Executed in the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince on this 10 May 1994, year of independence 191.

For the Senate of the Republic: Bernard Sansaricq, Senate president; Ebrane Cadet, first secretary; Margareth Martin, second secretary.

For the deputies, supporting the Senate in its patriotic act: Josue Lafrance, Emmanuel Reyme, Gabriel Antoinier Clerval, Pierre Francois Vital. [applause]

Text of Senate Resolution Declaring Presidential Vacuum

FL1305202794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 May 94

["Text" of resolution by the Senate of the Republic declaring a presidential vacuum and providing for the appointment of the president of the Court of Cassation as provisional president; read by Senator Ebrane Cadet at the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince on 11 May—live]

[Text] Mr. President, Mr. President of the Senate, members of the Office: We announce the presence of Attorney Emile Jonassaint, president of the Court of Cassation, who in a few seconds will take the oath as provisional president of the Republic of Haiti. [applause] [words indistinct] to read the 10 April 1994 resolution of the Senate of Republic:

Senate of the Republic of Haiti. Resolution of the Senate of the Republic. In view of Articles 1, 8, 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, (?136), (?137), (?138), 139, 148, 149, 153, 154, 155, and 170 of the Constitution;

In view of the resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his departure on 30 September 1991;

In view of the decision of the Court of Cassation of the Republic on 27 March 1992 declaring the Washington Agreement inoperative due to the defect of inequality between the parties;

In view of the 15 June 1993 decree of the National Assembly acknowledging citizen Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president of the Republic;

Considering, however, that the attributions of the National Assembly are definitively defined by Article 98-3 of the Constitution [words indistinct] cannot be extended to other subjects;

Considering, nevertheless, that the 15 June 1993 decree received no consideration from the person mainly concerned and that it was followed by the signing, under the aegis of the United Nations, of two documents called the Governors Island agreement and the New York Pact;

Considering that those agreements shielded from the sanction of the parliament have not been executed and are from here on declared null and void;

Considering that the government called [Government] of Concord [words indistinct] has been resigned for four months and has not been replaced;

Considering that individual or group attempts to resolve the crisis—that have been made since then—such as the 27 February 1994 Parliamentary Plan and a synchronous plan of the U.S. Statement Department have been categorically rejected by Mr. Aristide in his intransigence and stubbornness;

Considering that the country is experiencing one of the most terrible crises of its history, a crisis which endangers not only the institutional life of the state but also that of the Haitian people who are subjected to the stringencies of all deprivations;

Considering that in the meantime the Haitian people are experiencing a painful, deadly, and unprecedented situation for both their sons and their ecology [words indistinct] national boat drifting, without chief, without executive, shaky institutions, a state attacked at its very foundations;

Considering that under these conditions of exceptional gravity, the parliamentarians, joint guardians of the national sovereignty, are duty bound to [word indistinct] the boat by filling this institutional vacuum created and deliberately nourished;

Considering that in fact this refusal by President Aristide to endow the country with a head of government in violation of Article 147 is equivalent to a resignation;

Considering that there is good reason to take note of this presidential vacuum with all legal consequences;

Considering on the other hand that the international community has widely shown its inability to resolve the crisis while taking into account that Jean-Bertrand Aristide [words indistinct] to maintain and/or to reinforce the illegal and criminal economic sanctions have forced the responsible authorities in the country to find a constitutional solution to the problem;

Considering that to guarantee the enduring of the state and [word indistinct] this committee [words indistinct] there is good reason to reconstitute the executive power in order to achieve normalization of the national life;

Considering that citizen Robert Malval, prime minister, who resigned 15 December 1993, told the parliament in a letter dated 7 February 1994 that he and the members of his government were no longer responsible before the parliament and therefore have no authority or competence to convene the National Assembly, it is now the responsibility of the legislative power to take the necessary measures alone;

Considering consequently that from this point on it is urgent to fill the presidential vacuum in compliance with the provisions of Article 149 of the Constitution to ensure the stability of the institutions and the continuation of the Haitian state, the Senate of the Republic has adopted the following resolution:

Article 1. The Senate takes note of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's obstinate refusal to carry out his constitutional obligations. Consequently, the Senate takes note of his resignation, declares a presidential vacuum, and revokes the 15 June 1993 decree.

Article 2. In compliance with Article 149 of the Constitution, the president of the Court of Cassation is endowed with the powers of provisional president of the Republic.

Article 3. The provisional president chooses his prime minister in conformity with the Constitution for the formation of the government that will have to work toward holding the forthcoming elections in the country and presidential [words indistinct] in accordance with a timetable for the return to constitutional order.

Article 4. An ad hoc deadline is granted to the Provisional Government, given the exceptional circumstances for establishing the necessary structures. This deadline will not extend beyond the date of 7 February 1995, planned for the installation of the Communal Section Administration Councils, mayors, deputies, one-third of the Senate, and the next president-elect.

Executed at the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince on 10 April 1994, the 191th year of independence.

[Signed] Bernard Sansaricq, senator of the Republic, president of the Senate; Pastor Ebrane Cadet, senator of the Republic, first secretary; Margareth Martin, senator of the Republic, second secretary. [applause]

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Calls Naming of New Haitian President 'a Mockery'

FL1305230394 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Minister Ralph Maraj has described the appointment of a new president in Haiti by the regime there as an absurdity. He says it is an insult to the international community and makes a mockery of attempts to reestablish democracy in Haiti:

[Begin Maraj recording] We certainly will not recognize the new president. We think it a mockery, a mockery, a political mockery, and certainly the only president of Haiti that we recognize is President Aristide. [end recording]

The Haitian military and the promilitary parliament appointed the head of Haiti's Supreme Court as a provisional president. This is seen as an act of defiance of the U.N. Security Council ruling, the penalty for which could be military intervention.

[Begin Maraj recording] If indeed the United Nations takes a certain course of action, Trinidad and Tobago will do whatever it can and give very serious consideration to making any kind of contribution within its means to support any U.N. initiative in the solution of this Haitian crisis. [end recording]

Although the foreign minister says he would not like to see military intervention take place in Haiti, he says it is a last option and it may have to be considred, in the final analysis.

[Begin Maraj recording] Democracy has been on the march. We have just witnessed a dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of the first step toward a democratic way of life in South Africa. We cannot allow Haiti to continue like this. We must develop a strong and positive approach and do what is necessary at the multilateral level to deal with the situation. [end recording]

New Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice Appointed

PA1405124794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 14 May 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] There was movement today in high-ranking positions of the federal government. Approximately 45 minutes ago, I received the following bulletin from the Presidency:

Today, the president of the republic appointed Humberto Benitez Trevino as attorney general of the republic, replacing Diego Valades Rios, who was appointed Supreme Court justice. This appointment will be submitted to the Senate for approval. Benitez Trevino served as attorney general of the Federal District until today.

The president of the republic designated Ricardo Canavati Tafich as deputy secretary of urban development and infrastructure, replacing Architect Jorge Lepe Garcia, who was designated deputy secretary of housing and real estate of Secretariat of Social Development. Lepe Garcia will in turn replace Alfredo Phillips Olmedo, who was nominated by the president to preside over the General Assembly of the Institute of the National Housing Fund for Workers, Infonavit. This is the end of the bulletin.

Following these changes, it is still not known who will be the attorney general of the Federal District.

Guatemalans, Salvadorans Arrested in Rail Bombing

PA1505201494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1835 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Tapachula (Mexico), 15 May (EFE)—Today, journalists reported that a bomb damaged a section of railroad tracks a few kilometers from Tapachula, Chiapas State, 1,300 km south of Mexico City. The explosion destroyed 10 meters of track and left a hole 2 meters wide, interrupting railroad traffic.

Soldiers and federal and state judicial police arrived on the scene and established area controls while National Railroad of Mexico personnel inspected the route for other bombs.

The Army arrested a group of people from Central America who were near the site of the explosion—four Salvadorans, seven Guatemalans, and one Honduran—who remained under judicial police arrest.

Nearby residents said that the bomb was homemade and that it was intended to destroy a nearby bridge, although authorities are still examining what was left of the devise.

State Reaches Agreement With Chiapas Cattlemen

PA1305140594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 May 94 pp 60, 18

[By Candelaria Rodriguez and Jose Antonio Roman]

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, 9 May—This evening, the state government pledged to compensate cattlemen and rural producers by paying 4,500 new pesos for each of the 21,220 hectares in the area of the conflict. The amount represents a "rental payment" that covers from January to 31 October this year, based on the terms of the peace accord.

The sum will serve as compensation for the effects of the armed rebellion without involving a sale of land. This measure, it was said, responds to proposals made by Chiapas livestock producers.

The agreement signed this evening between the cattlemen's leaders and Governor Javier Lopez Moreno includes private land and ejidos and deals with damages to the land so far. They agreed that the arrangement will be reviewed upon its conclusion from the perspective of the peace accord that is currently under negotiation.

Following a march by cattlemen from Altamirano, Las Margaritas, and Ocosingo Municipalities to demand that state and federal authorities comply with the agreements signed 20 days ago in the presence of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Governor Lopez Moreno decided to meet the protesters' demands with an allotment from the state's own funds.

The state official signed the agreement with cattlemen leaders Jorge Constantino Kanter and Jose Francisco Lopez Ardines, who agreed that landowners will receive 4,500 new pesos for land that cannot be tilled because it is within the area involved in the conflict. The figure will be multiplied by 12 percent annually for the 225 estates fully registered in the area. The payment to these estates "is like a rental payment for those affected between 1 January and today and for subsequent months."

Fidel Culebro Trejo, president of the state's Rural Producers Federation, said the agreement does not involve any land sales. He added: "It is like a rental payment on the land's value."

The following individuals signed the agreement on the state government's behalf: Jaime Mantecon Solis of the Rural Development and Ecology Secretariat; Rodolfo Ulloa Flores, general government secretary; Nestor Aguirre of the Agrarian Reform Secretariat; and Carlos Arroyo Rincon, assistant Agricultural and Water Resources Secretariat delegate, among other authorities.

To implement the agreement, the state government pledged to establish offices in the municipal capitals of Ocosingo, Altamirano, and Las Margaritas. The offices will register each of the estates located within the zone involved in the conflict once the requested stipulations have been met.

Rural producers must submit requests to the governor for inclusion in the program, which begins tomorrow, at offices that will accept applications between 11 and 31 May. These offices will only register affected estates in Ocosingo, Altamirano, and Las Margaritas Municipalities.

State authorities will forgive, through the Finance Secretariat and on this occasion and for this zone only, taxes levied on the issuance of a tax clearance certificate. State officials will perform the appropriate analysis as soon as the requested documents arrive so they can immediately proceed with the payment.

The Rural Development and Ecology Secretariat will be responsible for establishing the aforementioned registry offices. Enrique Moscoso Thomas, who has been named the program coordinator, will verify that the work is carried out expeditiously and without creating problems for owners and state officials.

Referring to land occupations, the agreement states that "we will abide by the 60-day deadline specified in the agreement made with the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations (CEOIC) in Mexico City."

Once occupied lands are recovered, evaluations will be made to see that damages are repaired within the state government's normal programs. Once an agreement is signed between the parties, rural cattlemen and producers will reportedly vacate the city's civic square and downtown area, which they closed off throughout the day. The demonstrators will reportedly return to their communities this evening.

Government Secretary, Governors Sign Security Agreement

PA1305171594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 May 94 pp 1, 19

[By Rosa Icela Rodriguez]

[Text] Upon signing the Agreement to Coordinate Public Security Operations in 1994, a program in which the government will invest 226 million new pesos, Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo said that in view of attempts to weaken the state, it is time to strengthen the unity of all Mexicans and utilize the vitality, strength, and creativeness of the institutions. He stated: "Among Mexicans, there can be no enmity, only adversaries."

Carpizo explained that the resources granted in the agreements signed by the Government Secretariat and state governments are intended to improve the quality of the police force by training personnel in the most modern and scientific methods of investigation.

Carpizo stated: "Let me speak clearly. Public security is a state responsibility. Mexico's public security policies must be improved because this is a permanent commitment to the nation and with the law. That commitment rejects illegal actions. It requires our public security corps to remain current, permanent protection of our constitutional order and full respect for liberty, human rights, and the guarantees supporting these rights."

The government secretary signed the agreement with 29 governors and the Mexico City mayor. The governors of Baja California and Tamaulipas, Ernesto Ruffo Appel and Manuel Cavazos Lerma, were not present but sent representatives to the meeting. The agreement was signed within the framework of the National Public Security Program. The ceremony took place in the Revolution Room of the Government Secretariat.

Carpizo said it is necessary to uphold and improve conditions that provide assurances, calm, and public security, all of which are indispensable to promoting national development. Carpizo explained that the federal government and the states must act "responsibly," especially in view of calls for improved public security without infringing on any constitutional guarantees.

The secretary explained that the idea is to reaffirm the legal system and to strengthen conditions that nourish civilized life, order, and public peace within the framework of respect for rights and liberties.

The ceremony was also attended by Mexico State Governor Emilio Chuayffet Chemor, who said Mexico has recently endured violence which a majority of the people undoubtedly rejects. He said "crime has tarnished our coexistence." According to him, the country wants better public security so the state can function legally.

Chuayffet Chemor said all sectors view insecurity as an offense, so when it is occasionally the result of negligence or abuse of authority, distress turns into indignation.

He added that the federal government has responded promptly to public security demands and noted: "The federal entities want to fight violence, crime, and the confusion between legitimate claims and arbitrary attempts to impose particular interests on the majority."

The state leader said more policemen are needed to fight crime. This increase in forces is not meant to cause concern in society but to bring it serenity. He added that "the community expects promptness and efficiency from the people who serve it by fighting those who would offend and endanger the community. The people demand assurances and expect no reduction of the freedom we all enjoy. They ask for a stern hand to enforce the law but say there can be no justification for abuse and excessive power under any circumstances."

Jacques Rogozinsky, general director of the National Bank of Public Works and Services (Banobras), announced that his organization designed a financial plan to modernize the public security system equipment. The plan's objective is to support the states in purchasing vehicles for their preventive police and judicial organizations. He explained that the funds for these vehicles will be funneled to the various states through Banobras, which will be responsible for providing the vehicles themselves. The federal government will contribute 25 percent of the total cost of the units, while loans will provide the remaining 75 percent over three years.

Rogozinsky went on to explain that five assembly plants will be invited to bid. The bank will require a "unit cost and discount reference list" for all vehicles and other equipment, which will be a determining factor for all participants. In addition, the bank will establish a "volume discount rate per unit," which must be applied by all qualifying participants.

Socorro Diaz, undersecretary of civilian protection, crime prevention, and social readaptation, said the funds will be used to upgrade the organization and operations of the public security forces in each state, including private security agencies, weapons for the police force, communications equipment, and other materials used for training and to preserve order.

EZLN Invites PRD Candidate To Visit Conflict Zone

PA1505033894 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 May 94 p 6

[Letter sent by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-Zapatist National Liberation Army, EZLN, General Command to Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, presidential candidate for the Democratic Revolutionary Party, issued from the EZLN's General Headquarters in the "mountains in the southeastern sector of Mexico, Chiapas" on 9 May]

[Text] Zapatist National Liberation Army, Mexico.
9 May 1994

To: Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano.
Candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Mexico.
Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD].

From: The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-EZLN General Command.
General Headquarters. Mountains in the southeastern sector of Mexico, Chiapas. Mexico.

Mr. Cardenas:

We hereby respectfully address you to invite you to come to an area in the Zapatist zone. We have learned that you are one of the candidates for the office of president for the six-year term between 1994-2000. We believe you know what brought on the just struggle of the Zapatists and the 11 basic points we have presented as necessary for Mexicans in our country to once again be human beings: homes, land, work, bread, health, education, independence, liberty, democracy, justice, and peace. We wish to know what you think of the EZLN's demands and hear what you will do to comply with these demands should you be elected president of the republic.

The EZLN will meet with any of the candidates for the Presidency who wish to meet with us. All we ask is that you publicly declare that you and your party are receiving nothing from us for this visit, that you have not paid us, in money or in specie, and that you will enter, remain, and leave our territory at your own risk.

Should you accept this invitation, we ask that you reply through one of the members of your campaign group, stating date and place.

For all. Liberty! Democracy! Justice!

From the mountains in the southeastern sector of Mexico.
Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-EZLN General Command.

Import of Anti-Hank Charges Argued

94CA0111A Mexico City REFORMA in Spanish 2 May 94 p 11A

[Commentary by Juan Molinar Horcasitas, researcher at National Autonomous University of Mexico's Social Research Institute: "A Hard Test"]

[Text] The criminal charges that the National Action Party (PAN) has filed against Professor Carlos Hank Gonzalez represent a tough test for the government as the elections approach. If the government succeeds in passing it rather handily, it will be very instrumental in creating the appropriate conditions so that the 1994 elections do not wind up surrounded by suspicion and recrimination. But if the government fails this exam, it will do severe damage to the elections and cast a dark shadow over their integrity and impartiality. PAN's charge is that Carlos Hank Gonzalez and his private secretary violated Article 407 of the Federal Penal Code. This article prohibits public servants from using whatever funds, assets, or services they have at their disposal to support a political party or candidate.

According to the official PAN charge, which carries on through legal channels what the national press began in the media, Carlos Hank used resources from his secretariat to place a full-page insert in all national newspapers in support of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] presidential candidate. The evidence that PAN has submitted to back up its charge apparently includes copies of documents that were issued by the office of Mr. Hank's private secretary and that mention conversations which the agriculture secretary had with several well-known figures to drum up support for the PRI candidate. I have no way of knowing whether these documents constitute sufficient evidence to bring the accused before a criminal court, but what is clear is that broad segments of public opinion have enough evidence to believe that Mr. Hank is indeed guilty of the charge.

Naturally I do not claim that what counts in the press will also count before the public prosecutor, much less before a judge. But I do not find it acceptable either that the Attorney General's Office should dispense with the matter by simply shelving it, inasmuch as there are sound legal and political reasons why this matter ought to be treated seriously.

Legally speaking, the Attorney General's Office ought to take up the matter and rule whether there are sufficient grounds to bring criminal action against the accused individuals or against whoever may turn out to be responsible. In that case, the consequences would not be at all minor, because the law describes the crime quite clearly and provides for a fine of between "200 and 400 days pay and one to nine years in prison."

This harsh law puts all of the people involved to a severe test. I am sure that Carlos Hank is not at all afraid of the fine, but I do think that the prospect of a year in jail bothers him. And in this instance the judge cannot opt for the easy way out because the law says that the penalty consists of a fine and jail time. To make things worse, the final section of Article 407 of the Penal Code itself says that "release on bail shall not apply in the case of this crime."

The political pressure will be mostly on Attorney General Diego Valades, of course, but it could extend to electoral authorities as well, especially the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), because although it does not have specific authority to conduct the corresponding criminal investigation, it does have a political and legal interest in the case. Article 82 (Section "v") of the current election law says that the General Council of the IFE has the power "to ask the General Executive Board to investigate, with the means at its disposal, incidents that significantly affect the rights of political parties or the electoral process." The case at hand obviously affects the electoral process because a high-level official of the federal government has been implicated in the commission of an electoral crime. As a result of this law, we can expect a loud debate on the matter during the next session of the General Council of the IFE; this could well be the last session of the current council or it could mark the debut of the new one, which has already been constituted by its new members, who will apparently take charge of the final stages of the electoral process.

Moreover, the crime of which Carlos Hank is accused also affects the delicate political negotiations that have been taking place over the past few months. If the authorities do not offer a convincing response to the charges that have been filed and if they do not proceed fairly, they will be proving right those who accuse the government of being unwilling to organize a clean election.

The opposition's reaction is understandable, since the crime involved is not a minor one. The offense does not consist of the improper use of a few faxes or of a few hours of the highly valuable time of senior officials and civil servants to whom taxpayers pay splendid salaries. The offense does not even consist of the huge cost of inserting the document of support in the press, if it was in fact paid for with public funds.

The offense, if it is proved to exist, would consist of the violation of a criminal law by a senior government official. It would also consist of a flagrant violation of the government's repeated promises to hold clean elections. In this regard, it jeopardizes the country's political stability. So then, it is an offense against the opposition parties in particular and against society in general, especially at a time like this when a failed election would be a disaster of enormous consequences for the country.

It would be even worse if these already severe offenses were compounded by impunity. The potential political advantage of appeasing a justifiably annoyed opposition should not prompt us to convict the defendants before a serious investigation and, if appropriate, a fair trial. It is very wrong to use scapegoats. Likewise, however, we must not acquit the defendants without conducting the investigation that justice demands and without proceeding to the appropriate trial, inasmuch as the privileges of powerful, untouchable officials and authoritarian impunity are also very wrong. Therefore, the attorney general must take legal action in response to a serious charge. Therefore, Carlos Hank Gonzalez and his private secretary must answer this serious charge legally and politically.

Costa Rica

Nicaraguan EPS Capture 2 Tourist Fishing Boats

PA1505181694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 15 May 94

[All names as published]

[Text] San Jose, 15 May (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Security Minister Juan Diego Castro reported that the Costa Rican Government has asked Nicaragua for "explanations" on the capture of two motor boats carrying tourists by a Sandinist People's Army (EPS) patrol on Saturday in Costa Rican Caribbean territorial waters.

The two boats captured off the Barra del Colorado coast, 240 km northeast of San Jose, had a Costa Rican crew and were carrying foreign tourists engaged in deep-sea fishing, when they were intercepted and towed to the port of Bluefields, in Nicaragua, the minister said.

Castro said the Costa Rican Government asked the Nicaraguan Government for "explanations" and the "immediate return of the boats and their crew." The Costa Rican Government also sent the Nicaraguan Government a report drafted by witnesses who observed the EPS maneuvers from a small airplane.

The boats were towed to Bluefilelds in Nicaragua, "and so far, we have not received any news on the whereabouts of the tourists or the boats' crews," Castro said today.

The minister added that the EPS soldiers went about 1,500 meters inside the high-seas territorial waters, where they stayed for approximately two hours inspecting identity documents of several boats anchored off the Barra del Colorado coast.

The boat "Bull Shark" was piloted by Costa Rican citizens Luis Torres and Wallace Bryan and their passengers were identified as Erick Beacker, Brian Broheart, and Jean Carl Becquer.

The other captured boat is the "Guapote," which was piloted by Captain Roberto Brown. It was carrying foreign tourists who were identified by the police as Frank Vanbenbourgh and Ted Mosinut. The authorities did not reveal their nationalities.

Police Clash With Banana Workers; 35 Hurt

PA1405191094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] San Jose, 14 May (ACAN - EFE)—A violent clash between police and workers of the Geest Caribbean banana company in Sarapiqui, 130 km north of San Jose, left over 35 people injured on 13 May. Strikers threw stones at policemen, injuring 16 of them. The police returned fire and wounded 19 workers, three of them seriously. The police also arrested 33 workers in the clash, which began when they evicted the workers from the farms where they had been on strike for a week.

Approximately 1,000 Geest Caribbean company workers were preventing the police from clearing roadblocks on the roads leading to the banana farms. The workers hurled rocks to repel the police's attack, who returned fire with guns and tear gas.

Security Minister Juan Diego Castro justified the police action and said he gave the workers a deadline to lift the roadblocks before the police would evict them, but "all efforts to convince them were in vain." A correspondent for the daily LA NACION, who witnessed the incident, said 150 workers clashed with approximately 200 riot police "marching in closed formation toward a roadblock erected by the workers."

"The police loaded their M-16 rifles and got the tear gas grenades ready while the strikers awaited the troop's advance, rubbing together in their hands the stones they would later hurl at the police, the daily reported. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Union spokesman Jorge Barboza told ACAN-EFE that the labor unrest at Geest Caribbean began in April when the company cut wages up to 50 percent in some cases and then dismissed over 200 workers of the Union of Agricultural, Livestock, and Related Trades Workers of Heredia (Sitagah), a union the company does not recognize. Barboza added that the strike, which has entered its eighth day, is intended to recover wages and achieve the reinstatement of 200 workers fired by the company, "which was preparing to dismiss a similar number of union workers."

The Geest Caribbean company issued a communique stating that "the strike is an unjust protest" and explained that it does not recognize Sitagah, which heads the strike, "since it is not a registered union, therefore the company cannot negotiate with people who do not represent the interests of Geest workers." The company granted the workers' representation to an association of blue-and white-collar workers, which, according to the communique "groups 65 percent of the company's workers."

Barboza said "the workers have decided that the union will represent them, and the company must accept that decision." He also announced that they are preparing, with support from the International Labor Organization, a labor rights violation complaint. Barboza noted that all the dismissed workers belong to Sitagah and said the company intents to "rid" itself of unionized personnel. He added that the workers are ready to negotiate a solution to the conflict.

ROC President Urges China To Adopt Power Transfer

OW1305204294 Taipei China Broadcasting Corporation News Network in Mandarin 2300 GMT 7 May 94

[Report by "special correspondent" Kang You-feng in San Jose from the "Hookup" program]

[Text] At a joint news conference held by Republic of China [ROC] President Li and Costa Rican President-elect Figueres, President Li said he has a dream of transferring state power to another person in a peaceful manner during his lifetime. He said this would be his happiest wish. Meanwhile, President Li also called on Communist China to establish the system of the peaceful transfer of state power based on the concept that sovereign authority rests with the people.

Especially to express high respect and courtesy, Costa Rican President-elect Figueres held a joint news conference attended by the heads of state of both ROC and Costa Rica. Owing to the fact that the transfer of state power from the old president to the new president in Costa Rica will take place soon, reporters from various countries who are going to cover the presidential inauguration ceremony all seized the opportunity to attend the news conference. The site of the news conference was crowded with people.

When a reporter asked President Li about his views on the democratic politics in Costa Rica and the enlightenment of Costa Rica's democratic experience, President Li pointed out that in recent years, Costa Rica has been a very democratic country because all systems of the country are based on the concept that sovereign authority rests with the people. In particular, the transfer of state power from the old president to the new president is being carried out peacefully. People will not feel uneasy because of the transfer of state power.

At that time, when President Li noticed that there were XINHUA reporters present, he switched the conversation to another subject and pointed out: The biggest problem in mainland China is how to find a successor. We can understand, after examining democratic politics in several countries, that we must establish a system to ensure a long period of political stability. Establishing a good system is the basic way to ensure a long period of political stability. President Li said:

[Begin Li recording] The sovereign authority rests with the people. This sentence is not new. In fact, however, it is also a new concept. Are representatives of mainland China here, too? Think about it! The biggest problem in mainland China is how to transfer state power to a successor. Please see that only people elected by the people can represent the will of the people. Our current goal is to improve democratic construction, which is precisely to establish such a system. [words indistinct] [end recording]

At this point, President Li emotionally said he has a dream, which is not to transfer state power after his death. If possible, he will transfer state power peacefully to another person during his lifetime. He said that this is his happiest wish.

[Begin Li recording] I have a dream. That is, if there is such an opportunity, I shall transfer state power to another person. This will be my happiest wish. In China, our ROC, no president has ever transferred power to another person during his lifetime. I hope that our society [words indistinct] will not have such problem. This is why I said that sovereign authority rests with the people. Meanwhile, our constitional reform is precisely for this purpose. Only in this way can the state achieve stability. To develop the country, we must have a stable foundation. [end recording]

After President Li spoke about sovereign authority resting with the people under democratic politics and the establishment of a political system to ensure a long period of political stability, reporters from the Xinhua News Agency also expressed their views to ROC reporters that President Li's remarks are quite right and that China needs a scientific system and must not continue the past way of a certain person designating a successor. Su Chih-cheng, head of the secretariat of our presidential office, who accompanied President Li on his visit, also told the XINHUA reporters that President Li's remarks all were words from the bottom of his heart and he expressed his hope that they could reflect and report fully President Li's remarks.

El Salvador

Court President Criticizes Foreign Push for Constitutional Reforms

PA1305180194 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 May 94 p 3

[Text] Supreme Court President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro has criticized the various organizations and individuals who, under the pretext of foreign aid and the peace agreements, are pushing for the ratification of constitutional reforms. Yesterday, Gutierrez Castro said some reforms have been approved "not because Salvadorans agree with them but because the UN secretary general has expressed his concern."

"We must be a sovereign nation and find a way to become financially independent to keep others from trying to manipulate us under the guise of international aid. "Anyone with light-blue eyes feels entitled to recommend reforms here," Gutierrez noted. "We must stop being cowards because cowards are always intimidated. As long as we continue to lack moral courage and a high concept of our nationality, we will have to live under pressure."

Asked about President-elect Armando Calderon Sol's trip to the United Nations, where he will reportedly reiterate his government's commitment to comply with the peace agreements, Gutierrez Castro said that he himself could not raise political criticisms against Calderon Sol. He added, however, that it would be ruinous for Calderon Sol to commit to compliance with recommendations made in the Truth Commission report because they "are illegal, arbitrary, and deceitful." Gutierrez Castro asserted that "if I had to go to the United Nations, I would go, but I would not say that I am going to comply with those recommendations."

On 11 May, Gutierrez Castro presided over the inauguration ceremony of the First Specialized Regional Seminar for Lawyers, Judges, and Military Judge Advocates: Human Rights in the Armed Forces. The event was held at the Camino Real Hotel and sponsored by the Inter-American Human Rights Institute's Program for the Armed Forces and Police, the Spanish Defense Ministry, and the Salvadoran Defense Ministry.

Political analyst Kirio Waldo Salgado said the Legislative Assembly must avoid foreign pressure. "We are tired of dealing with unfair constitutional measures on the last day of congressional sessions," he stated. Salgado said that "democracy in El Salvador is subject to the U.S. Government, which dictates reforms in this country." He added that the deputies must legislate on behalf of the Salvadoran people, not for the international order.

Guatemala

Belizean Troops Enter Guatemalan Territory

PA1405015694 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 May 94 p 3

[Text] After it was confirmed that Belizean troops had entered Guatemalan territory, yesterday, Army spokesperson Major Edith Vargas de Marroquin reported that the Army is prepared to defend the country militarily. Nevertheless, Vargas said this problem must first be solved politically and that the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry has started to take specific actions to this end. "The defense minister visited the area and listened to the local residents' complaints and fears. He told them the Army is prepared to defend them, as it is its responsibility," she said.

According to the Army's official version, the problem is that there is no definite border between Guatemala and Belize. This has not led to an armed confrontation between the two armies, however, the source said. Maj. Vargas reported that the Guatemalan and Belizean troops stationed along the border area hold "peaceful" relations and avoid incidents.

It has been reported from Peten that combined British and Belizean troops continue to harass and intimidate hundreds of peasant families living in the area. The source added that these two armies have used sophisticated equipment, such as the Harrier plane, specially designed for heavy fighting.

On Tuesday, the peasants intimidated by these actions presented to the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office a petition reporting that foreign troops had entered their communities to evict them and seize their property. Sebastian Tux, leader of the affected communities, told this newspaper that Belizean soldiers arrived at their homes and ordered them to leave because the territory belonged to Belize.

Army Anticipates Major Problems After Peace Agreement

PA1305230394 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 May 94 p 95

[Text] On 11 May in Poptun, Peten, Defense Minister Division General Mario Rene Enriquez Morales said the Guatemalan Army anticipates major problems after the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] sign peace agreements, probably next December.

"Peace might be around the corner, but we are living one of the most decisive and pivotal moments in Guatemalan history; consequently, political and military efforts are necessary in order to consolidate a long-desired peace in this nation," Enriquez Morales stated during the commencement of the 42d class of Kaibiles [Guatemalan counterinsurgency troops] in Poptun, Peten. Over 40 Guatemalan, Mexican, and Salvadoran soldiers received the Kaibil rank under the motto: "If I go forward, follow me. If I stop, hurry me up. If I go back, kill me."

Enriquez Morales believes the end of the internal armed confrontation will cause serious problems. These problems, he asserted, will go beyond mere political bounds because a high level of misinformation exists and will prevail. He stressed that, as a result, the URNG will want to come out the front door [salir en caballo blanco], which will hinder national unity.

Regarding the coming meeting between the government and the URNG in Oslo, Norway, scheduled for late May, Enriquez Morales said: "Let us hope there is political will on the part of the URNG to be able to sign, once and for all, a peace agreement by the end of 1994."

Enriquez Morales, accompanied by the other members of the Army's high command, decorated over 40 Guatemalan, Mexican, and Salvadoran soldiers during the ceremony. These soldiers spent two months in Peten's jungle and earned the Kaibil rank. The commencement was held at the Kaibil Special Operations Center, located in the Zaculeu Plaza, known as Poptun's Hell [Infierno de Poptun]. Enriquez Morales added that the Army will reject a reduction of its troops so long as they are prepared to join the UN-led international peace security forces or blue helmets.

URNG Imposes War Tax on Farm Owners

PA1405182394 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "Channel 7 News" newscast]

[Text] Today, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] admitted it has imposed a war tax on large farm owners but denied that it made death threats against farmers. Last week the General Association of Farmers of Guatemala accused the guerrillas of making death threats against 213 farm owners and demanding a war tax in exchange for not destroying cattle ranches and coffee, banana, and sugar cane crops.

The guerrillas issued a document in Mexico City arguing that in a country at war, these political-military operations are directed against the economic interests of one sector responsible for the continuation of the armed conflict. This measure only affects the properties and belongings of those farmers who refuse to pay the war tax and who have derived large profits from the sweat of a labor force resembling the colonial encomiendas, the URNG said.

The URNG leadership warned that such operations will continue so long as the armed conflict continues and so long as it is not resolved by negotiations or political agreements between negotiating parties.

Defense Minister Mario Rene Enriquez Morales made these comments to "Channel 7 News:"

[Begin Enriquez recording] We are doing all we can to track down the individuals who are extorting money from farmers and those who favor [words indistinct] job opportunity in Guatemala. Guatemala's productive sector has been hit hard by the URNG. They are now demanding war taxes of up to 2 million quetzales. In general, they ask for 250,000, 150,000, or 100,000 quetzales in war taxes. Those who do not pay face the destruction of their farms. Workers from many farms—we have confirmed this in areas we have patrolled—[words indistinct] farmers are trying to collect money to pay and then disregard the workers. [Words indistinct] pay the extortion or that ill-named war tax and disregard their workers. I even spoke to producers in [words indistinct] and Escuintla. I asked if they wanted to form voluntary committees [words indistinct] I would do it. Why? Because the rebels are giving me a reason to do this, and the human rights agreement that was signed deals with this. [end recording]

UN Mission: Importance of Human Rights Verification

PA1305231494 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 9 May 94

[From the "Channel 7 News" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The UN preliminary commission left the country after spending a week in Guatemala where they established the importance of the Human Rights Verification Commission. According to remarks by mission members, they left the country in high spirits because the current situation in Guatemala is quite encouraging. Leonardo Franco, head of the UN delegation, commented on their work in Guatemala:

[Franco] "Through meetings held over the past two weeks [as heard], we have reached a very significant consensus within Guatemalan society concerning human rights.

"First, there is consensus on the importance of the General Human Rights Agreement signed on 29 March which, in everyone's opinion, marks a very encouraging phase in the Guatemalan peace process.

"Second, there is also consensus on the international verification mission, which was requested on the one hand by the government and on the other by the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] command in the general agreement and which the broadest sectors of society view as a very positive factor for the observance of human rights in the country.

"Finally, on the issue of consensus, the mission's government and nongovernment interlocutors also unanimously agreed that the verification mission should arrive in the country as soon as possible. We will recommend this to the UN secretary general.

""Third, this consensus will undoubtedly prompt an adequate response from the international community concerning the Guatemalan people's efforts to achieve human rights and peace."

Defense Minister Mario Rene Enriquez commented on the remarks made by the UN preliminary mission members regarding the immediate installation of the Human Rights Verification Commission in Guatemala.

[Enriquez] "They have, of course, a general impression of the country, which will serve as the foundation for their recommendations to the UN secretary general concerning verification, which I hope will take place as soon as possible. I believe the Guatemalan community, in general, agrees that the Verification Commission should come to Guatemala as soon as possible."

The defense minister also commented on the invitation extended to him by the Permanent Refugee Commissions [CPR] and said he is willing to talk with the URNG commanders.

[Enriquez] "They have invited me to visit them and I will certainly go. I would like to tell you that certain reports have been published which, perhaps, are the result of a misinterpretation by the person who wrote them because I, as defense minister, will not go looking for the subversives and the terrorist criminals in Ixcan. No. If they were to invite me to a meeting supervised by the United Nations, I would go because I have nothing to fear. I have spoken with the URNG leadership and I believe that for the sake of peace we should reach an agreement."

Enriquez also reiterated a desire for a cease-fire in the area of the Ixcan and Xalbal Rivers, about which the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference has issued a statement.

[Enriquez] "The Defense Ministry accepts that statement 100 percent because, I believe, the person who has done the most to promote it has been the president, of course, but through me. I advocate a definitive cease-fire between the Xalbal and Ixcan Rivers and also that the refugees, repatriates, and CPR's allow themselves to receive full aid without influence and looking only to the future, a better future for our new generations and so they themselves can live in peace and tranquility in that area."

Honduras

President Reviews Government's First 100 Days

PA1505004594 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 May 94 pp 8, 9

[Speech by President Carlos Roberto Reina in Tegucigalpa on 10 May]

[Text] Fellow citizens: On concluding the first 100 days of government, I think it is very important to address you on the state of the nation and to continue this frank and open dialogue on the situation of public administration regarding our most serious and pressing problems.

If democracy implies coordinating who should govern and how, nothing could be more appropriate than this communication between the people and their authorities, to obtain the consensus of all sectors on essential aspects of our national life.

To my fellow party members, I say that supporting the plan of my government's moral revolution does not only mean voting for it, but wholly supporting it so that it can advance. If we destroy the moral revolution, vast corruption would return. Such a state of affairs would mire us again in the situation that we want to overcome. It would be absurd to think that destroying the project of an authentic moral revolution would improve the Hondurans'economic situation.

Those opposed to my government consist of two principal groups: those who were overwhelmingly defeated at the polls, who were part of the old style of government, which was described by the U.S. Senate as one of the most corrupt in the world; and those impatient fellow citizens who rightfully want to see their expectations of participating in public administration fulfilled expeditiously.

Once again, I must note that Honduras' current problems stem principally from the ethical and administrative blunders of the former government. There is hardly any sector of the government during this period in which there has not been more than one illicit act or an act directly intended to favor a privileged group of public officials or a close political ally.

Administrative management, also, at the outset was deficient and incomplete, above all, in the field of economic reorganization. Not only were acquired commitments not fulfilled, but the actions of the new government were burdened by contracting new obligations which they never intended to put in practice. In this sense, the sacrifice of the people signified little or nothing.

Dishonesty among state workers was one of the most serious flaws of the former government. The massive communications media have consistently and in the most plausible manner denounced these facts throughout the presidential term. Thanks to the dedication of this group of Hondurans, actions such as the dilapidation of important resources of the country, which would have further depleted the wealth of our nation, were averted.

It is important that the people know how they were governed recently because this will make it easier for them to understand the multiple efforts that must be made to return to the path of development for all. On the one hand, the damage caused must be remedied. On the other hand, new actions must be undertaken in all aspects of national life.

In light of this situation, it is not fair to leave those who profited from the most shameless forms of corruption registered in recent Honduran history go unpunished. That is why we created the Commission To Prevent and Struggle Against Corruption, formed by different sectors of the population. Soon, this commission will report the first results of its investigations and the measures that must be taken to punish those responsible and return to the people what should have been theirs.

On this occasion, however, I can report to the Honduran people that at the initiative of ministers and managers of decentralized institutions, the following cases are being investigated: car imports from Italy; administration of the Property Registry Office; product imports by Banasupro [National Supply Agency for Basic Products]; sale of Honduran passports to Asian citizens; the Permanent Committee for Emergencies' handling and administration of resources to aid the homeless; customs administration; and the administration of the Teachers Retirement and Pension Institute, the Teachers' Social Security Institute, the National Autonomous Aqueduct and Sewage Service, among others.

It should be made clear to the public that the actions aimed at punishing the corrupt who have caused so much damage are only intended to make justice prevail and return to our society the unwithering values of honesty and loyalty to the Republic. This must not be viewed as an act of vengeance and much less as an act of political vengeance.

In the government program I presented to the people during the last electoral campaign, I said we would undertake economic policies that would not only favor growth but also distribute equality. We stressed the need to follow the path of equitable, sustainable, and verifiable economic growth with an option for the country's poor.

To carry out a long-term program that strengthens and transforms national production is a task we have undertaken since the beginning of our administration, for without a general development policy plan it is not possible to see clearly where are we leading the country in the coming years. But while we devise these medium- and long-term policies, it is urgently necessary to implement provisional actions leading to an indispensable waiting period, while the economy in general is reactivated.

The aforementioned statement becomes more critical because when we planned the Liberal Party government program, the data we had led us to believe that a three- to six-month waiting period was essential to implement the necessary corrective actions in the fiscal sector and then devote our attention to most urgent tasks favoring the needy and economic growth tasks.

This was and is the perception and the clear, definite, and fundamental objective of the government. As the first weeks passed, however, and we learned the reality of the data on the country's financial and economic situation, we have reached the cruel but realistic conclusion that the Honduran economy, in early 1994, is facing the need to make several corrective measures.

I say this based on the data on the finances of the public sector, the balance of payments deficit, the foreign debt payment, the handling of controlled prices, and the signing of mandatory contracts preventing the reduction of public investment.

This last factor, the exorbitant spending that has no priority in public investment and which lacks a cost analysis and benefits for Hondurans, and which does not consider its impact on the fiscal deficit for the years after 1993, worsens the situation we have depicted. The expansion of telephone lines, which represent an investment of over $200 million in less than 18 months; the contracts signed for the construction of the ring road in Tegucigalpa and compensation payments for the owners of properties that neighbor the road; and other projects are good examples.

The current situation is also pressing because the mishandling of the monetary policy increased the interest rates prevailing in the banking sector, thus raising costs for the productive sectors.

As for prices, in addition to the agreements businessmen accepted, the decree to freeze prices that enabled the former administration to keep inflation down artificially stands out. A low inflation level was also maintained through the use of international reserves that kept the exchange rate at a lower level than that of the market. This manipulative conduct by the former government resulted in transferring an inflation rate that surpassed a 2 percent monthly average in the past three months to the economy and the population.

The following figures speak for themselves: The unadjusted public sector deficit for 1994 exceeds 2.7 million lempiras, which represents over 11 percent of the GDP. By the end of January 1994, there were $143 million in late debt payments, including $6.5 million with some Paris Club creditors. Over 170 million lempiras in prospective government revenues coming from the sale of cement assets [activos] were used to finance public spending for the previous year. The use of domestic savings increased by filing promissory notes worth over 120 million lempiras in public retirement institutions. In addition, the former government did not comply with IMF goals regarding the nation's macro economy and public finances. This is why we began our government with measures leading to reorganize that situation, including an increase in customs compensation during the first days of February 1994.

For lack of other measures, we have had to allow the exchange rate used by sellers and buyers to stand at eight lempiras to the dollar. We have also had to accept a partial liberalization, at the import level, of oil by-products through the price adjustments already announced.

What is being branded, in the economic area, as slowness or hesitancy by my government is neither. On the contrary, it is an objective and calm evaluation on how to approach the various sectors to persuade them that there is no other responsible and serious solution. We must act honestly and adopt measures unfulfilled by the former government that currently affect most Hondurans. In addition, we are not doing this to follow guidelines foreign to Hondurans, but we are totally convinced that not adopting them would lead to an even more adverse situation.

To sum up: We received the country with negative international reserves, a foreign debt volume—larger than 1989—that now absorbs over 35 percent of exports and over 30 percent of the government's budget. Honduras is a country with a wary and uncertain private sector, a sluggish export level, almost nonexistent private investment, and a contained high inflation level.

Our recommendations to Congress this month seek to rescue government credibility, which has been weakened since 1993 by the implementation of flawed economic policies. We also seek to obtain the support of international financial institutions and friendly countries for projects under way as well as new social projects for an amount exceeding $600 million in the coming three years. Thus, the country will have foreign exchange to meet its obligations to begin an in-depth stabilization of the national economy. Our proposals also seek to restore trust in the country's sectors and reduce the social cost to achieve an economic recovery as soon as possible.

In this regard, I urge workers and businessmen to immediately sign an economic stability plan that enables businessmen to establish a rational control for staple prices. These measures, designed to stop the decline of the purchasing power of the majority, are not incompatible with an adequate return on capital and other production factors. Our goal is to introduce stable criteria to maintain prices that people can afford, precluding speculative distortions or excessive profit margins.

As for the labor sector, its contribution to socioeconomic peace in the country would be determined by a realistic stand regarding demands for a salary increase. The labor sector would help the national recovery by adjusting their demands to the true situation of the productive apparatus and the pressing demand to increase job opportunities. In sum, workers need to adopt salary expectations that help diminish inflation effects and exorbitant price increases.

On the other hand, the government is bent on controlling the fiscal deficit and reaching a stable rate of exchange that will contribute to restraining inflationary prices. In turn, this will allow other macroeconomic variables, such as interest rates, to reach levels that will encourage production development and the creation of productive employment.

We expect to sign this economic stabilization agreement within the next few months. In this respect, interested parties are already cooperating with each other, and I can say with satisfaction that the understanding of the sectors involved allows us to look upon an agreement of this nature with optimism. This will open the door to more in-depth decisions and commitments with respect to prices, wages, and employment.

I have given instructions to transfer 100 million lempiras to Banasupro and the immediate restructuring of this institution in order to mitigate the situation plaguing the prices of the basic staples basket. This will allow the lower income groups to have access to essential goods by paying reasonable prices.

We will supply Banasupro with the items consumed daily by the population. The constant increase in market value of said items represents one of the deepest concerns for the Honduran household that is not part of the circle of privileged minorities.

Within the aforesaid context, I report to you with satisfaction that we are advancing significantly in establishing the national system of food security, which represents, as stipulated by our government program, one of the main pillars of the agriculture policy of the current administration.

We are determined to reverse the current situation of food insecurity within a realistic concept, one based on national production and not importing products. It is a matter of furnishing the people with essential food products in appropriate amounts, times, places, and at the right prices.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, the National Agrarian Institute (INA), the National Agricultural Development Bank (Banadesa), the Honduran Corporation for Forest Development (Cohdefor), the Honduran Agricultural Marketing Institute (IHMA), Banasupro, FHIS [Honduran Social Investment Fund], the Secretariat of Planning, Coordination, and Budget (Secplan), the organizations of producers, manufacturers, and transformers of agriculture products and peasant organizations, all coordinated through the secretary of state at the Ministry of Natural Resources, prepared and presented to the president of the Republic an integral and integrated plan for food security. I have already instructed that this plan be implemented during the present agriculture cycle, including the credit policy, technical assistance, the supply of inputs, the marketing system, and the resources for small irrigation projects.

Even before taking office, we expressed our constant interest in protecting and preserving the tropical dry and rain forests, the productive permanence of forest resources, and the conservation of vital processes and biodiversity. In this regard, we have ordered a three-month wood cutting suspension so as to stop the unnecessary and incomprehensible depredation of our forests. During this period, we will formulate and implement a forest policy aimed at reorganizing the forest administration of the state and revising its juridical framework.

This was done based on the fundamental principles of sustainable handling of the resources, multiple uses, and sustained output in the areas of forest interest. It is our objective that this policy be implemented with the participation of the private sector and with modern and compensatory techniques for exploiting the wood. This will permit our children and grandchildren to enjoy this wealth for a long time to come.

The wood-cutting prohibition will have special importance for the hydrograhic basin of the Francisco Morazan Dam, Yojoa lake, the Merendon mountain range, the Rio Platano biosphere, as well as the basins of such rivers as Comayagua, Cangrejal, Grande or Choluteca, Guayapoe, Patuca, Sico, Aguan, Wans Coco or Segovia, Ulua, Chamelecon, and Humuya and the regions of fragile and over-exploited soils.

Officials from Cohdefor, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the State Secretariat for the Environment, Secplan, and the corresponding municipalities and provinces will meet this month to coordinate and harmonize actions for enforcing the prohibition. The Armed Forces will offer their assistance to this effort.

The first measure of this new policy will be the absolute prohibition of using chain saws to cut wood and the complete closure of sawmills, [word indistinct] and other activities to cut and extract wood from the aforesaid areas.

Compatriots, in the Liberal Party government program for the 1994-98 period we said: "Honduras is on the verge of an unprecedented energy crisis, caused by the lack of policies and planning in this area. In the last few years, there has been concern to expand the demand, but without taking provisions for increasing the supply."

The discouraging prediction has come true and the crisis emerged. At no time did the previous administration take the precautions that national and international organizations had recommended.

We have had to overcome insufficiencies in the electricity sector through extraordinary means, such as buying energy from neighboring countries, leasing new means of generation, and rationing the use of electricity. At this time, we can proudly say we have overcome the most acute part of the crisis. The timely and firm actions adopted by the executive branch have allowed us to deal with the problem from several angles.

Undoubtedly it is essential to resolve this problem. It is also necessary to implement the law on the electricity sector, which has been submitted to the Congress, and to restructure the National Enterprise for Electric Power.

Honduran people, As our fellow citizens know, we have submitted to the Legislative Assembly the law that regulates voluntary-educational military service. The assembly unanimously supported the initiative to reform the Constitution in order to change the mandatory military service. This new method of serving the fatherland, through the voluntary-educational military service, constituted one of the fundamental issues of my election campaign. Today, I can say with satisfaction that we have kept our promise to the people.

Honduran youths now have the alternative of choosing between a professional military service or voluntary training that will permit them to defend the fatherland and its institutions whenever it is required. In reality, this constitutes a historic step and is evidence that the understanding between the Armed Forces and civilian society is not only possible, but has served as a national strengthening mechanism to open new avenues of understanding in the future.

Just as we have done with the military service, in the coming days we will be taking the necessary steps to implement the code of ethics for public workers, which is another promise that I made to the people. This corps of people are a valuable expression of the moral revolution, which will not conclude as long as the corrupt actions and insidious handling of state affairs persist.

Regarding the projects and actions to be carried out in the medium term, they are all aimed at increasing production, especially of our workers. With this we will improve the efficiency of Honduran producers and, hence, competitive levels both in the national and international markets.

It is with this long term vision that my government has launched the strengthening of the agricultural and forestry sector initiatives. The objective is to allow the private sector to find a field of action in which its investments will have legal security and its presence can be seen by Honduran communities as a dynamic factor of progress.

Government actions, such as issuing land titles, permitting the free use of the land according to the law, and opening the forestry sector through the process of auctions will permit us to increase foreign investment. As an example, I can state that private investment in the coffee and banana sector stands at over $100 million, along with other products in which investments reached similar levels. On housing, our objective to build 50,000 homes in the next four years will be achieved with the active participation of the private sector.

The electricity crisis has evidenced the urgent need for giving guarantees so that private investors can participate in this sector, both in the generation and the distribution of electricity. Investment prospects in this sector range from over $200 million for immediate solutions to sums equivalent to $500 million for medium term solutions.

Regarding privatization, we will continue to include in this process several state enterprises, or some of their branches, such as the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise [Hondutel]. I have expanded the privatization commission to give it greater representation and sufficient moral authority so that it can present the method of privatization of Hondutel and inform the people about it. This privatization could generate over $400 million in the next three years. This would allow us to achieve not only a more efficient telephone service, but also an influx of foreign exchange that would also permit us to achieve the objective of contributing to create foreign exchange stability and vast resources to finance the social action program to fight poverty.

Various sectors have initiated a public discussion on the interests of foreign investors in building a large refinery in Puerto Castilla. This debate must continue so the people and the government are convinced that we are abiding by our environmental protection laws as well as of the real benefits this $2-billion investment would represent for Honduras.

As for the benefits, we can plainly state that such a significant investment will help us attract more foreign investment. As president of all Hondurans, I urge investors to follow the example of those foreigners and show their patriotism and confidence in the prevailing investment conditions by increasing their business activities. It is true these investments could lead to an annual economic growth rate of 5 percent in real terms, but the generation of new employment sources will not end there.

In the industrial area, we will give preferential treatment to small and intermediate industries and establish programs for micro-entrepreneurs. We already have specific projects that could receive support from international financial institutions. The projects we have in mind exceed $100 million, including resources for an industrial reconversion operation pending since 1993.

We will meet our announced goal of increasing by 100,000 the number of workers in the industrial processing areas. We have decided that these industrial centers should operate in different locations of the country to generate local jobs.

As for the social aspect and the reactivation of productive sectors, we have negotiated and continue to negotiate $600 million in nonreimbursable loans from foreign cooperation programs for the 1994-97 period. Thus we will develop and strengthen areas such as health; education; production training; potable water and sewage treatment; agricultural-livestock production and irrigation; environmental protection; support for private enterprises, especially small and micro enterprises; tourism; and various aspects of government reform, particularly regarding the legal system, municipal decentralization, and administrative reform.

Our agricultural-livestock policies deserve special recognition. Regarding property, particularly agrarian reform, we will immediately conduct a thorough evaluation of this program and the corresponding legislation. This evaluation will help us draft an effective program to reinstate peasants in the productive process. We will guarantee landownership by issuing property deeds and by establishing an official land register, both of which are essential for agricultural credit.

The Natural Resources minister, as head of the agricultural public sector, the executive director of the INA, and the president of Banadesa, will submit the evaluation to me three months from today. Meanwhile, my administration has allocated 120 million lempiras to finance basic grains in the current agricultural period. Banadesa contributed 30 million of the 120 million lempiras.

Regarding children, we have already thoroughly evaluated the progress made in implementing the national plan to help children. This national initiative includes goals and specific resources geared toward increasing protection and improving living conditions for children, specifically those facing difficult circumstances. Major advances in this aspect include the latest inoculation campaign, which reached over 90 percent of the children, the certified eradication of polio, and a strong fight against cholera.

The first lady is reorganizing the programs of the National Social Welfare Board to more effectively orient attention to abandoned children, children who are the most socioeconomically vulnerable. The first lady is focusing in particular on street children, orphans, and children who work. Health, water, and environmental sanitation are fundamental to healthy and productive living conditions. The health care system is being rehabilitated and strengthened, and we have earmarked an initial 28 million lempiras increase for medicine. Beginning Thursday, 12 May, the ministers will issue detailed reports on what we are doing and what we intend to do in investments and short- and medium-term plans.

Fellow citizens, No one should be surprised that in a society in which democracy is the form of coexistence, demands and requirements often emerge silencing dictatorships. We will never oppose people's demands when they are based on justice and equality. Such events, in any case, must be channeled within the legal framework and must have as boundaries the right of others and the common interest.

Premature or unjustified strikes, forceful takeovers of private or public properties, such as roads and public buildings are reproachable means of vindicating rights or groups' accomplishments. This is particularly true in a government that keeps the avenues of communication and understanding open.

We hope our working class and their leaders can understand our position and end these actions. We have enough means in the nation's juridical arsenal to achieve said objectives. Before this year is over, we will reform labor legislation in agreement with workers and businessmen so that this instrument, according to the most modern concepts, defines the steps that must be followed when conflicts between workers and businessmen emerge.

This is the dawn of a new era in worker-employer relations, in which increases in productivity and adapting to technological advancements are essential factors for achieving development that favors all. In this new atmosphere, which paves the way for greater competitive capacity in the markets, the confrontation and antagonism of classes must be overcome through negotiations and within a framework of growth with equality.

The aforesaid statement is part of the juridical-political security that must prevail in the state. Arbitrary actions must be eliminated for always from all sectors of society.

Fellow countrymen, in case of social conflicts stirred by groups and unions, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I instructed them to pledge themselves to safeguarding public order, preventing violent abuses, and letting courts solve conflicts based upon the stateliness of juridical laws.

As for the modernization of the state, among other efforts we will make, I hereby announce that we will create conditions under which municipalities may have full autonomy immediately. The following issues will have the same priority: the reorganization of the internal and external supervision of the executive branch; juridical and institutional reforms of the system of constitutional rights; the defense, strengthening, and development of human rights, and the strengthening of the Attorney General's Office, as well as sweeping reform of the judicial system.

As for international relations, we have progressed in tune with the new world order. Our joining the UN Security Council in January 1995 is praiseworthy. We are living in special times on the international scene: the end of apartheid in South Africa, the return of the Central American sister nations to social welfare programs, the opening up of international financial institutions to programs and actions to help the lowest-income sectors. All these achievements confirm our commitment with the people, especially with poor sectors.

Fellow countrymen, the great national consensus on extracting the country from its most serious and terrible problems was formed when the people overwhelmingly entrusted us with steering the nation's destiny. We now have to translate that ample consensus into widespread and local endeavors that will emanate from an agreement among all interested parties.

We have already started that significant task with some of the country's most important unions and political parties. We have met with teacher and labor union representatives to discuss the serious problems we are currently facing that so affect our nation, in the firm conviction that this is the path to greater milestones in Honduran history.

We will achieve those projects on which we have already embarked with said groups as soon as possible with the help of other sectors by signing, with the support of all, a social pact that will commit us to ensuring that everyone will benefit. This is how we will inaugurate a national plan needed by the country to follow a clear and certain path with a view to the challenges that the end of the millennium and the century pose.

This is the path I promised as part of my platform when I said: "It is essential for all the nation's sectors to sign a social pact to establish the basis for reaching a national consensus on such nationally important issues as national identity, civilian participation, reform and modernization of the state, economic reactivation and recovery, equitable growth, improvement of the domestic market, regional integration and economic internationalization, human development, environmental protection, and sustainable development. This government program constitutes the Liberal Party's contribution toward reaching said social pact and is complemented by operational measures that include, among other items, administrative decentralization and financial and operational restructuring of certain public institutions and organizations."

As a candidate, I said I would promise the people only what I could deliver; as president, I am keeping my word. We have kept our promises by selecting a capable working team, by eliminating confidential accounts, and by creating a volunteer and educational military service. We also reactivated the FHIS and revived the program of bonuses for mothers who are heads of household; we returned investigative services to civilian control and broadened judicial reforms and the modernization of the state.

We are currently consolidating the national convergence process. We are also honoring our international commitments and negotiating the best possible conditions for the people. All of this in only 100 days of government.

Those who talk about lack of action or lack of cohesion in the administrative arena have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear; they are unaware of how much time it takes to organize a new government. Instead of making constructive criticism that will help guide action that can benefit national causes, they seek only to satisfy their personal interests and expect the moral revolution to fail, thus ensuring that they will remain hidden behind impunity and will return to power only to usufruct it to the detriment of Honduras.

As president of all Hondurans, I salute all my fellow countrymen and invite them all to work courageously and continuously to ensure that the material goods and spiritual values to which are entitled will blossom in our land.

Nicaragua

VP Doubts U.S. Aid To Stop Over Ownership Issue

PA1305193894 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 May 94 p 16

[Report by Roger Suarez]

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy told LA PRENSA that he does not think the threat of a suspension of U.S. aid to Nicaragua will be realized because the Clinton administration has already decided to support President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro until her mandate ends.

Last Friday the U.S. Congress approved the Helms-Gonzalez Amendment, which sets a 90-day deadline for countries that have not returned properties confiscated from U.S. citizens. This matter is a cause for great concern in Nicaragua as approximately 1,400 U.S. citizens have filed complaints.

Dr. Godoy does not believe that the threat of a suspension of aid will break the government's economic adjustment program "because the Clinton administration wants the Chamorro administration to fulfill its mandate without difficulties."

Godoy based his opinion on the "the unchanging attitude of U.S. Ambassador John Maisto" and the reaffirmation of that view by Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of State for inter-American affairs, during his visit to Nicaragua, two things that translate into clear support for Chamorro.

He described the latest news from Washington on the possible suspension as a "kind of blot or shadow."

"I believe this is merely an invitation to the government to respond to the complaints filed by U.S. citizens at the Attorney General's Office or with the government directly to either have their properties returned or be compensated," he noted.

Godoy expressed skepticism about a law to end the ownership problem "because one cannot simply say four years later that we should turn over a new leaf.... This calls for a high degree of understanding."

He added that the National Assembly may enact a law that will end the problem, "but it will do no good, since nobody will heed it. Let us remember that according to international law and the general principles of human rights, there is no statute of limitations on property rights." LA PRENSA asked Godoy if there is a solution to the ownership problem in Nicaragua. He replied: "It should have been resolved a long time ago. There was a way to do it, but the government or the presidency minister lacked the political commitment to do so."

The vice president affirmed that during a reception hosted by the Venezuelan Embassy, he told Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo that "if they put the ownership problem in my hands, I could resolve it in 90 days." Godoy told Sandinist leader Daniel Ortega the same thing last year.

Godoy explained that there are different levels to the ownership problem, "and the main ones are the easiest to solve, but the remaining cases are very specific and must be settled by the courts.

Presidency Minister Lacayo confirmed that he spoke with Godoy on 8 September at the Venezuelan Embassy about the stability the country required and how it entailed a solution to this problem.

On 27 September, Godoy, Lacayo, and Sandinist leader Henry Ruiz met at the Spanish Embassy. "When I heard Ruiz and Godoy say that a solution to the ownership problem was feasible based on consensus, I asked them to draft a proposal endorsed by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and UNO [National Opposition Union]. (Godoy and Ruiz) shook hands," Lacayo stated.

Godoy later abruptly left the meeting. "I am still waiting for the proposal," Lacayo said.

Chamorro Says Deadline Not Needed

PA1305201894 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by Vilma Estrada from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro has said that her government has shown clear signals of its determination to settle the property issue, adding that it does not need a 90-day deadline to resolve the problem of properties confiscated from U.S. citizens, as stipulated by an amendment approved by the U.S. Congress.

[Begin Chamorro recording] [Words indistinct] 90 days. I have given clear signals of my resolve to settle this issue since I assumed the presidency. We have returned what does not belong to us and gradually resolved other problems. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Leal explained that the Gonzalez-Helms Amendment deals with returning properties confiscated from U.S. citizens or compensating them as well as with creating a procedure to resolve this problem in keeping with international law. This is precisely, he continued, what the Nicaraguan Government has been doing.

[Begin recording] [Leal] We began returning properties in the hands of the state in October of last year. We began with 40 companies. This is an ongoing process, because as soon as we return some properties, more U.S. citizens appear demanding other properties.

[Chamorro, interrupting] I may add that it is not only U.S. citizens but citizens of Spain, Mexico, and other parts of the world who are demanding the return of their properties. This is a terrible situation. We, the Army, and the police must all work together to solve the problem. Everyone who profited from the pinata-like giveaway must return the properties.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think of the insinuations made by the director of Channel 8, who questioned your authority as president during an interview with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo?

[Chamorro] [Words indistinct] is wrong because I was elected by the people. I am in control, not Antonio. Antonio, like my foreign minister and everyone who works here, is working for all of you, for the people of Nicaragua. [end recording]

President Chamorro presented 21 motorcycles to 21 humanitarian institutions in the country.

FSLN's Ortega Rejects U.S. Stand

PA1605013594 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 May 94 p 11

[Report by Moises Castillo Zeas]

[Text] Matagalpa—Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has rejected the Gonzalez-Helms amendment recently approved by the U.S. Congress on the return of property to U.S. citizens in Nicaragua within 90 days.

Santa Emilia Assembly

Ortega addressed an assembly of peasant leaders meeting at the Santa Emilia School, 18 km north of Matagalpa, to discuss a peasant proposal that will be presented at the FSLN special congress to be held in Managua.

The former president said that the only way to stop this threat is "for all Nicaraguans to join in a common front and tell the United States that this is not feasible because it would create greater instability in the country."

Search for a Solution

However, Ortega added, we must find a solution to this issue without affecting the country's interests because paying the compensation they are requesting ($600 million) is totally unacceptable.

The FSLN leader added that during meetings of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] it has been said that the COSEP would not agree to a policy of compensation because it would worsen the country's economic problems.

Daniel warned that this threat will force the executive to seek solutions. Ortega warned that "that the decision could result in serious problems in the search for the country's stability."

Somoza Family Benefited

The former president stressed that these measures will benefit the family of the late dictator Anastasio Somoza because they are gringos "since they have requested U.S. citizenship and will now come and claim their properties."

The Sandinist leader said that for the government to put an end to this property issue it must recognize Laws 85, 86, and 88. He said that these are valid and legitimate laws. Ortega recalled that the government had specialists in legal matters brought in to review the aforementioned laws, who found these to be flawless and thus gave their approval. Ortega added that had the government found a flaw in these laws it would have abolished them immediately.

The Problem in the Countryside

Meanwhile, hundreds of peasant leaders in the northern sector of the country gathered at the Santa Emilia School to reach an agreement on the problems experienced by the countryside that will be presented at the FSLN special congress next week. At this moment, hundreds of peasant leaders are studying various proposals such as the legalization of property, the distribution of agrarian deeds, financial assistance, technical assistance, land, participation by women, and other issues that will be discussed at a meeting scheduled for 0900 on 16 May at the Santa Emilia School.

Jose Gonzalez, FSLN political secretary in Matagalpa, said that the FSLN National Directorate will be present at this peasant meeting. The meeting will also be attended by peasant leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], the ATC [Farm Workers Association], and others who can offer ideas aimed at solving the problems encountered by the countryside.

EPS Seizes Costa Rican Boat, U.S. Citizens

PA1505191294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1816 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Managua, 15 May (NOTIMEX)—The Sandinist People's Army (EPS) today reported that yesterday they seized a Costa Rican boat 16 km north of the Costa Rican border for illegally navigating inside Nicaraguan waters.

EPS spokesman Ricardo Wheelock said that they arrested seven passengers—three Costa Ricans and four U.S. citizens—and that the boat was towed to Bluefields on Nicaragua's atlantic coast.

"They probably were sport fishing. It is also a drug trafficking area, and that it is why there are special EPS patrols in that area," Wheelock told the press.

Contrary to the EPS report, Costa Rican Security Minister Juan Diego Castro said that the Nicaraguan patrol boats entered Costa Rican territorial waters to apprehend two boats, not one, as Wheelock had said.

Castro said he contacted the Nicaraguan Government Ministry to work on the release of the people arrested, but the ministry spokespersons were not available.

Panama

Perez Balladares on U.S. Military Presence

PA1105170494 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares in Panama City by Jacobo Zabludovsky; from the "24 Hours" newscast on 10 May—live or recorded]

[Text] [Zabludovsky] Presidential elections were held last Sunday in the Republic of Panama. The winner of the elections was Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares, who is in Panama City. Good evening, Dr. Perez Balladares.

[Perez] Good evening.

[Zabludovsky] How do you feel after the elections?

[Perez] Obviously, I am quite satisfied. I think this has been an extraordinary civic process by the Panamanian people. I greatly appreciate the massive support received through votes. Also, I am greatly appreciative of my adversaries, because we managed to conduct an extraordinary campaign with a high level of civic-mindedness and specific proposals. I am very proud—truly very proud—of the Panamanians and of the level of culture and political development we have demonstrated in this campaign of 1994.

[Zabludovsky] Everyone is asking the question: Who is Dr. Perez Balladares?

[Perez] I am an economist. I graduated in 1967, obtained a masters degree in economics in 1969, and a masters degree in finance in 1970. After that, I was a banker for five years. I then joined the government of Omar Torrijos, where I served from 1976 until one year after his death, until 1983—excuse me, 1982. I was finance and treasury minister. I was planning and economic policy minister. Since then I have been an active member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

[Zabludovsky] One of the topics that was raised by your enemies during the campaign was that there could be a rebirth of militarism with your victory in Panama.

[Perez] I think that, more than anything, that was an electoral attack, which has now ended. Many knew that was clearly false. First, all military regimes have been dismantled throughout not only the American continent, but also in Asia, Africa—everywhere. The justification that was used for its existence, the alleged retaining wall to curb the progress of what the United States identified as its enemies—international communism—has vanished. Now democracy is in vogue, and this is something we applaud.

The same thing is happening in Panama. Because of international geopolitical conditions, and because of domestic conditions, there cannot be a return to militarism. This is so true that today I dare say the next foreign minister of my government will be Gabriel Lewis Galindo, a man who, from the United States, strongly opposed the former military regime. Therefore, there can hardly be any threat of a return to the past.

[Zabludovsky] What type of government will you try to promote in your first 100 days?

[Perez] We have based all of our government proposals, our entire campaign, and all of our efforts on achieving the reconciliation of Panamanian society. This society was deeply divided during the final years of the military government and by the invasion. We have to achieve this, and we must take specific steps. This cannot remain a mere electoral pledge or an expression of goodwill. I have to dedicate myself to building on this pledge in the first 100 days, striving to achieve a government of national consensus and unity, to enable Panama to enter the 21st century as a united country and as a country of equal opportunity. Obviously, I must work to ensure this at a later date, but the first thing is to make sure that everyone perceives us as a government of unity, as a government disposed to making the best efforts with the best men and women available in order that this can be our goal within the next five years.

[Zabludovsky] For nearly 100 years, one of the most controversial topics in Panama has been the U.S. military presence there. A poll was conducted and many people believe the U.S. military should remain. What is your view on this?

[Perez] Let me clear up something first. What we have are polls, and it has been proven that polls in Panama somehow are not totally reliable, as was shown in the recent elections. What does exist is a statement by many who have been polled in the sense that there is a feeling of apprehension, of fear perhaps, regarding the possible departure of the U.S. military from Panama.

We cannot give in to this fear, which in the majority of cases is unfounded, because we Panamanians have not only the capability but also the willingness to oversee the administration of the Panama Canal. Most of these fears respond to things that the people themselves do not understand, perhaps because of a certain degree of evil within some people who have instilled this in the people's minds. For example, some say that if the North Americans leave, the U.S. dollar will leave. These are two completely different things, and yet, the man on the street does not understand that the U.S. dollar is circulating on the street, not because of the U.S. presence here, but because it is our sovereign decision to have this currency circulating in Panama, which we Panamanians earn with our sale of services and goods abroad.

The presence of U.S. military bases in Panama is defined in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. They clearly state that by 31 December 1999, there should not be one single U.S. soldier in Panama. The presence of bases in any part of the world by any foreign power cannot be justified by economic issues. Military bases exist in any part of the world when there is a military interest in protection or aggression [as heard]. I do not think this is the case in Panama. The historic justification for the existence or presence of military bases in Panama, which was to defend the interoceanic waterway when the U.S. strategic weapon was the Navy, has disappeared. Nor is the Panama Canal threatened. In turn, we Panamanians do not see any reason, from a military standpoint, for there to be bases in Panama, at least not with the justifications used in the past.

If there is any other reason for a small or medium-sized U.S. military presence in Panama, the United States would have to say what it is and propose it to the Panamanians. Then we would have to look at our national interests, strictly from a security and military viewpoint. The positive or negative consequences of the permanence of U.S. troops in Panama because of economic issues is not a basis for such a decision. That is something altogether different, and it cannot be the fundamental criterion for agreeing to or opposing a U.S. military presence in Panama.

Let us suppose there is an additional interest on the part of the United States to maintain some presence in Panama. I can think, for example, of let us say the struggle against drug trafficking. If there is an interest on the part of the United States in this, then we would have to see what the terms and conditions are. Anything that might be agreed upon would then have to be submitted to a national referendum, because that is not a decision that can be made exclusively by the executive or legislative branch. It would have to be subjected to a referendum by the Panamanian people.

Vote-Counting Board: Perez Balladares Victor

PA1205024894 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0120 GMT 12 May 94

[Document read by Roberto Lombana, president of the Panamanian National Vote-Counting Board, at the ceremony to proclaim the winner of the 8 May presidential elections at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] I am here to present this document, which states the following:

Republic of Panama, general elections of 1994. The Board of Directors of the National Vote-Counting Board, in full use of its powers. Whereas:

On Sunday, 8 May 1994, general elections were held to elect the president and vice presidents of the Republic of Panama for the 1994-1999 term.

The National Vote-Counting Board, meeting by its own right and having fulfilled the legal and obligatory requirements, has counted all of the electoral circuit vote tally sheets.

Resolves:

To establish in the records that the Panamanian people have elected the following citizens as president and vice presidents: president—Ernesto Perez Balladares; first vice president—Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque; second vice president—Felipe Alejandro Virzi Lopez.

Certified and signed in Panama City on 11 May 1994. It bears my signature and that of my eight colleagues. Receive this, Dr. Balladares. [applause]

Perez Balladares on Presidential Proclamation

PA1205034194 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0123 GMT 12 May 94

[Speech by President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares on the occasion of being officially proclaimed the winner of the 8 May presidential elections at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Members of the National Vote-Counting Board, magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal, candidates here with us this evening, ladies and gentlemen:

Regardless of who has been the protagonist, Panama's democracy and the people of Panama very much wanted an event such as today's, an event in which a group of trustworthy citizens have clearly confirmed the verdict of the polls.

In Panama, thanks to men and women like you, the democratic consolidation process, which in other regions takes decades, has been accomplished in a very short period of time and has been built on very solid bases. This is the conclusion of an effort that has earned the praise of the foreign media and has been a surprise for some of our own fellow citizens.

Disputes, recriminations, confrontations, and arguments are now behind us, and behind us are also, let's hope forever, political campaigns stained by violence and elections blemished by doubts.

The country began to change beginning early Monday morning, not because one or another candidate had secured the majority of the votes of the Panamanians, but because everybody accepted unaffectedly and like a gentleman the results of the previous day.

Those of us who have acquired the commitment of promoting reconciliation in the country, accept it with joy but calmly, enthusiastically but without any intention of boasting before others about this privilege from the voters.

I must also say, and let this be a public tribute of respect, that our adversaries exhibited the patriotic altruism and the political generosity of closing, on the elections night, the wounds that the political confrontation could have opened.

They also deserve our homage. [applause]

In January 1990, taking a step that at that time was not understood, I visited President Endara to express our dissatisfaction with some measures that had been adopted. I told him that I categorically would initiate an opposition to his government. He told me that during his mandate, a democratic opposition would enjoy broad guarantees.

Today I must acknowledge, very sincerely, that I opposed his government and that President Endara showed respect for the opposition. This acknowledgment is necessary today because all of us have witnessed his effort to pave the road to an orderly transfer of power.

I cannot mention all the persons who made the democratic fiesta we now enjoy possible. But it would be unfair of me to fail to point out the exemplary behavior of the Public Force, yesterday arbiter of politics, and now the guarantor of constitutionality. The Justice and Peace Commission and the electoral delegates deserve the same public admiration. The respect they earned and the impartiality they exhibited were enough to quench infrequent outbreaks of violence and to guarantee to the citizens that this electoral struggle would see only three weapons: ideas, enthusiasm, and votes.

Since all the citizens, regardless of age or sex, were the true heroes of this democratic event, I want to conclude my statement by paying homage of respect and admiration to the three forefathers who, to the satisfaction and pride of everybody, comprise, and let us hope, will continue to comprise, the Electoral Tribunal. [applause]

They made us get used to listening to a song whose words are now a beautiful truth: We are the builders of the fatherland!

Thank you! [applause]

Future Cabinet Members Accept Nominations

PA1105220294 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 May 94 p 1

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] As announced by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on Sunday, industrialist Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Christian Democratic Legislator Jose Antonio Sossa, and cattle rancher Carlos Sousa Lennox have accepted cabinet positions in the administration of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares. This has been confirmed by the nominees themselves.

Lewis Galindo, who will be the foreign minister as of 1 September, was Panama's ambassador to the United States in 1977 when the Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties were signed. He opposed the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from 1987 to 1989. The new foreign minister is also the brother of Samuel Lewis Galindo, presidential candidate for Solidarity Party who came in next to last in Sunday's election.

Sossa, who accepted the post of attorney general, is a founding member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), a traditional and staunch adversary of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party].

Sousa Lennox, linked to the ruling Arnulfist Party and former president of the National Association of Cattlemen (Anagan), will be the minister of agricultural development (Mida).

Research by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA disclosed on Sunday as an exclusive report said that Perez Balladares has offered the Public Health Ministry to Carlos Garcia de Paredes, Raul (Baby) Arango Gasteazoro will hold the Ministry of the Presidency, Mitchel Doens will be the Ministry of Government and Justice, and Felix Gonzalez Santizo will be the minister of commerce and industries.

The Education Ministry has been offered to Stanley Muschett, rector of the Santa Maria La Antigua University (USMA) and chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission.

According to Perez Balladares, the other ministries will be held by PRD members, while Comptroller General Jose Chen Barria—also from the PDC—might be ratified in his post.

President-Elect Names New Finance Minister

PA1405165094 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 May 94 p A1

[Text] President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares appointed Olmedo Miranda, Jr., to be the next finance and treasury minister.

Miranda, who played a key role in promoting the Perez Balladares' candidacy during the political campaign, will take office on 1 September when the new government is installed.

Olmedo Miranda, Jr. owns several businesses.

Arnulfista Party Declines Offer of Ministries

PA1205035894 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0304 GMT 12 May 94

[Statement by Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, presidential candidate of the Arnulfista Party in the 8 May presidential elections, in Panama City on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, dear reporters. This evening, I gathered the Arnulfista Party's National Directorate and Consultative Board to discuss with them the offer made to me by Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares of two cabinet ministries in his administration.

The National Directorate and Consultative Board have issued the following statement in response to the offer made to the Arnulfista Party. It is a unanimous decision, and it states:

The National Directorate and Consultative Board of the Arnulfista Party, faithful to the doctrine and thinking of Dr. Arnulfo Arias, categorically and definitively reject the proposal to occupy ministries in the next administration.

The Arnulfista Party's ever upright position will be to defend, to the utmost consequences, the freedom and democracy the Panamanian people are enjoying today under the leadership and guarantees of an Arnulfista administration.

I reiterate that our glorious party's position will be to carry out a clear, constructive, and patriotic opposition, thus giving content and solidity to the authentic democracy for which the civic-minded fought and of which we are the most legitimate guardians. [applause]

Correction—Perez Balladares on U.S., Cuba Relations

PA1105192994

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Comments on Ties With U.S., Cuba," published in the 10 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, on pages 34 and 35:

Page 35, column one, paragraph seven, only sentence, make read...was delaying the agreement until after the...(correcting queried phrase)

Argentina

Three Injured When Tear Gas Grenade Explodes at Japanese Embassy

PY1305161194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1436 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 May (NA)—A tear gas grenade exploded this morning in the Rio de La Plata Building, where the Japanese Embassy has its offices, in repudiation of the Japanese refusal to grant a visa to soccer star Diego Maradona. Three people were injured. The explosion occurred just after 0830 [1130 GMT] when embassy employees opened the door to the offices on the 9th floor.

According to Alberto Crescenti, director general of the SAME [expansion unknown], the explosion at Paseo Colon 279 caused eye problems and suffocation to the following: Roberto Blanco; Carlos Catalano, 23; and Andrea Vousou, 22. The three were quickly taken by ambulance to the Algerich Hospital in La Boca District where it was determined that their injuries were not serious.

Pamphlets with the slogan "Down with Japan, lay off Maradona," of the Revolutionary Organization (ORP) were found in the building. This shows that the attack was in reprisal to the Japanese Government decision to not grant Maradona a visa. [passage omitted]

One employee told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS: "It is all very strange because the building has a contracted security organization in addition to the embassy security guard. Therefore, it is very difficult to understand how the grenade could have been planted in the building." [passage omitted]

Menem Opens 'American Week,' Lauds U.S. Relations

PY1305162794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1048 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (NA)—President Carlos Menem has stressed that relations with the United States are currently "the best they have ever been." He said Argentina "is showing its potential to the world."

Menem recalled that bilateral relations had run into "an infinite number" of problems, just as they do with other important nations, but stressed that beginning with his government, "an immediate decision was made to change course by implementing more realistic policies at both the national and international levels." Menem said this last night while opening American Week at the Pacifico Mall in Buenos Aires. U.S. Ambassador James Cheek participated in the ceremony.

The chief of state reiterated that Argentina must be "among the top 10 countries in the world because it has the necessary natural and human resources." He emphasized, "We must not forget that after having been among the world's top 10 countries some 40 years ago, we slid to 100th position in 1989." He stated: "It has been difficult to overcome the innumerable obstacles that hampered Argentina's escape from stagnation, frustration, and involution."

The president stressed that "an enormous apparatus that sought to frustrate had been mounted" in the country, "converting it into a nation of favor trading and privileges because the state dominated and did everything unsatisfactorily."

Defending his state reform policy, Menem highlighted the fact that "after five years, Argentina has moved from 100th place to 16th place among the economic powers." He said, "Argentina must once again be among the top 10."

Menem admitted that "not everything is right" in the country. He justified this saying that other stagnated nations "needed decades to revert the situation while we took just 5 years." Menem said, "No matter who governs, by the end of the century we will be much better off if we continue on this course."

The chief of state indicated that enhancing the current policy "is the best proposal for the current stage and for advancing against the scourges that affect us and the rest of humanity."

Menem defined these "scourges" as "poverty, drug trafficking, terrorism, and crime, which actively grow through new methods." He said: "The proposal for new laws and a more coherent relationship among all nations is the best answer to these scourges which undermine our best foundation: An organized society."

More than 40 recognized U.S. enterprises are participating in the event. The opening ceremony took place in the center of the mall where a 12.5-meter model of the Statue of Liberty, which is located in New York harbor, has been erected.

Di Tella Visits Turkmenistan Sugar Mill, Ends Two-Day Visit

PY1305215594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1538 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by Silvia Odoriz]

[Text] Ashkhabad, 13 May (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today ended a two-day visit to Turkmenistan, where Argentina has significant investments. He expressed full support for the political independence of this former Soviet Republic and for its economic reforms.

Di Tella concluded his stay in Turkmenistan with a one-hour meeting with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, with whom he discussed political and economic issues.

During a news conference, Di Tella said the political issues discussed with Niyazov focused on Argentina's support for the independence of Turkmenistan.

Di Tella noted: "We were among the first countries to recognize the independence of Turkmenistan, because we believed it was fair."

Niyazov, who received 99.9 percent of the votes in a plebiscite held in January—a plebiscite that allows him to extend his tenure until the year 2002, and which prevented the holding of new presidential elections that had been scheduled for 1997—today presented to his country's parliament his economic reform program for his country, including agricultural reform that involves land privatization.

Indicating that the political and economic reform programs announced by Niyazov "seemed good to him," Di Tella said: "Now it is also necessary to support economic reform."

The Argentine foreign minister admitted that "every country has to maintain its own rate of reform" and that, however desirable it might be to institute reform immediately, "it must be assumed that transformations need to take place at a rate that societies can accommodate."

Di Tella noted that "reaffirmation of the economic reform" is a key point now, as it represents one of the pillars of the future Turkmenistan. He added that along with this transformation, "political reforms" will take place "slowly, but firmly," and this is more important than any spectacular measures.

Concerning bilateral issues, the foreign minister pointed out that "we talked in particular about the presence of Argentine companies involved in giant projects" like Bridas, linked to the oil industry field, and Lybra, linked to the production of sugar and other industries.

Upon pointing out Bridas' goal of participating in ambitious projects such as the construction of gas pipelines linking this central Asian republic with Turkey, Europe, and Pakistan, and gas prospecting in Turkmenistan, Di Tella said: "I believe that in this case the old proverb that business creates friendship and friendship creates business is correct."

The foreign minister also mentioned the industrial projects of the other Argentine company operating in Turkmenistan.

Di Tella, who was feted today with a luncheon by Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Boris Shikhmuradov [title as received], this morning visited the Kaakhka area, where Lybra is constructing a sugar mill and an alcohol distillery that within one year will be able to process 30,000 metric tons of sugar per year.

Lybra executives Francisco Gradin, Pablo D'Agnillo, and Francisco Cordella joined Di Tella and his entourage, including high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, Argentine businessmen, and Juan Carlos Olima, the Argentine ambassador to Russia and to other former Soviet republics, for the visit to the sugar mill, whose construction in the middle of the desert requires a huge logistical deployment.

Lybra's investments in Turkmenistan total $230 million. The company, which specializes in the construction of industrial "turnkey" facilities, is involved in nine projects in this central Asian country. Lybra directly or indirectly employs 1,200 people in these nine projects.

Di Tella was feted last night by Bridas President Carlos Bolgheroni in a building that is part of a housing project developed in Ashkhabad, the Turkmen capital, for Bridas personnel in Turkmenistan.

Thus far, the oil company has invested $168 million in drilling two oil wells in prospecting for gas in Yashlar, about 450 km east of Ashkhabad, and is exploiting 38 oil wells in Keimir on the Caspian Sea. These oil wells currently yield 1,400 metric tons of crude oil per day.

Bridas is employing 616 people in Turkmenistan, of whom 236 are Argentines and people from other nationalities, including Europeans, Latin Americans, and U.S. nationals, 316 are Turkmen, and 64 are people from other former USSR republics.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1205144894

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 12 May:

According to the latest data disclosed by the National Institute of Statistics and Census cited by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, the unemployment rate has fallen from 9.9 to 9.3 percent. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1644 GMT 6 May 94)

The National Accounting System has reported that the GDP grew by 6 percent in 1993 compared with the previous year. Investments were up 13.7 percent in general, though they declined 15.7 percent on tractors and 12.7 percent on agricultural machinery and inputs. The items that registered the highest growth were public utilities, with 11 percent; construction, with 10.9 percent; and financial houses, insurance, and property, with 10 percent. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 10 May 94)

Bolivia

Aranibar Says Extradition Treaty With U.S. on Government Agenda

PY1405034094 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 May 94 National Section p 2

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (JATHA)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar today stated that the signing of an extradition treaty with the United States is on the government's agenda. He noted that the government is determined to sign it if it will benefit the country.

Aranibar said that the government would, in any case, sign the treaty "safeguarding the principle of respect for national sovereignty."

The issue has resurfaced at a time when the Bolivian Supreme Court is studying a U.S. petition for the extradition of Colonel Faustino Rico Toro, a former drug enforcement official who is facing charges in a Florida state court.

Aranibar said: "An extradition treaty is on the agenda, and the Bolivian Government is now willing to discuss it, to negotiate it, and—if appropriate—to sign the respective treaty."

Aranibar added: "This is how things currently stand, and this is the approach with which the Bolivian Government is going to work. We are determined to look into the prospects for modern international legal cooperation, taking into account the country's interests and the principles of international law."

Since the extradition of Asunta "Chunty" Roca Surez in July 1982, the Supreme Court has turned down similar U.S. extradition requests, arguing that there are contradictions between Bolivian laws and the Vienna convention on drug enforcement and extradition.

The Bolivian Government and the U.S. Embassy have time and again stated that the new extradition treaty—unlike the one currently in force, which dates back to 1900—will be specifically focused on the crime of drug trafficking.

Official Praises Proposal by U.S. Assistant Secretary Watson

PY1405033294 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 9 May 94 p A7

[Text] The new orientation of U.S. policies toward Latin America will trigger a reaction from regional countries and prompt them to search for imaginative, global, and definitive solutions to border problems that have remained unsolved for too long. This new trend will also create a real possibility for Bolivia to obtain a sea outlet through dialogue.

This is the opinion of International Relations Secretary General Jaime Aparicio, in referring to the proposal made by Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, on the need to solve border problems in the region. During a speech at the U.S. Congress on 5 May, Watson announced that one of his goals will be "to seek opportunities for dialogue to allow the United States to contribute to the solution of border problems in Latin America."

According to Jorge Crespo, former ambassador to the United States, the situation could be used by the Foreign Ministry to draw up a new strategy, for presentation at the next OAS meeting, for recovering Bolivia's sea outlet.

UCS Leader Says 'Little Impasse' Resolved With Government

PY1405031894 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The situation is back to normal in the government alliance. We are talking about the UCS [Solidarity Civic Union]. We have a report from Mario Espinoza:

[Begin recording] [Espinoza] Nothing happened, and UCS leader Max Fernandez, who was meeting with Government Minister German Quiroga and Presidential Minister Carlos Sanchez, told reporters that everything is fine, that the situation is back to normal.

[Fernandez] We have come to a happy ending [words indistinct] in the search for understanding between the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and the UCS. I believe an important step has been taken to continue to work together.

[Espinoza] Max Fernandez labeled the recent disagreements between the UCS and the MNR as a little impasse. He added that from now on there will be more coordination between the two parties.

[Fernandez] Congressional activities will also be normalized. With this explanation I would therefore like to convey to the country that everything is back to normal, that there is no longer any speculation, that on the contrary I am convinced that from now on we will do better work.

[Espinoza] The members of the UCS and the MNR, and all the members of the executive branch, are all very happy. But the one who was left in a very awkward position was the UCS deputy who had accused the MNR of trying to buy UCS deputies. [end recording]

Brazil

Soldiers Occupy Porto Alegre Federal Police Unit

PY1305130394 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Southern Military Command has reported that, following an agreement with the Federal Police Superintendency, it decided to occupy the Federal Police building in Porto Alegre. The building and nearby streets are being guarded by 150 soldiers.

Franco Orders Intervention Continuation

PY1305125994 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] President Itamar Franco has met with his ministers and decided to keep the Federal Police buildings under Army control today. Late this afternoon, the president will again meet with the ministers of strategic sectors to review the decision on the Army presence at Federal Police facilities.

During last night's meeting at Planalto Palace, the president, the military ministers, Justice Minister Alexandre Dupeyrat, and Federal Administrative Secretary Ronaldo Canhim analyzed the Federal Police strike for two and a half hours.

President Franco decided to maintain the security measures that were adopted on Wednesday until today, Friday. The measures are considered essential for the rendering of essential services and to preserve public property.

Late this afternoon, the president will again meet with the ministers to reassess the strike and a proposal to withdraw the military troops, which was made by the national defense committee of the Chamber of Deputies. The president will then decide whether he will maintain Federal Police buildings and stations under Army control.

Franco Orders Army To Leave Facilities

PY1405005194 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] President Itamar Franco has determined that the Army troops currently occupying Federal Police [PF] facilities should return to barracks. Here is Alexandre Garcia's live report from Brasilia:

[Garcia] After a 150-minute cabinet meeting to evaluate the situation, President Franco decided to order the Army troops to return to barracks wherever this is possible. In writing, however, he left a warning. He said that whenever and wherever abusive attitudes by striking movements take place, the government will use all the instruments at its disposal to maintain order, although it recognizes citizens' right to strike.

Planalto Palace reported the governmental decision to the president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee a few moments ago. He reported the news to the strike command, which has been holding a meeting with the National Defense Committee at the Chamber of Deputies.

The committee president said that during the evaluation meeting, it was established that the president of the Republic acted firmly and openly, and that today he used his common sense when he realized that the troops could be withdrawn.

A few minutes ago, the president of the National Federation of Federal Policemen—Francisco Garisto—said that during the 52 days of the strike several abuses had been committed, and that this brought about the military intervention. He added that from now on such abuses will be avoided, to show the president of the Republic that the strike is seeking purely to ensure better salaries for the PF. As a result of today's detente, he said, negotiations can be resumed. Garisto also asserted to the president of the National Defense Committee that beginning tomorrow, 30 percent of the PF contingents will perform essential services, without again upsetting the people. They will resume control of airports; border posts, including Foz do Iguacu; passports issuance; control of penitentiaries; and drug enforcement operations.

Economist's Comment Reportedly Hurts Lula's Efforts in U.S.

PY1405020894 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 May 94 p 1

[Text] Federal Deputy Aloizio Mercadante managed to undo with just one phrase all the effort made by PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luis Inacio Lula da Silva during the past five days to win the confidence of U.S. bankers and investors. Lula invited Mercadante to go with him to the United States as the PT's leading economist. During a lecture for 800 bankers, Mercadante yesterday said that he would give "a big headache to Bill Rhodes." In this he was alluding to William Rhodes, the representative of the steering committee for Brazil's creditor banks. The phrase caused great displeasure, and to the audience sounded like a threat. Lula sought to minimize the issue, but the U.S. investors still left the meeting fearing that a PT government would eventually break the recent debt agreement.

U.S. Confirms 'Neutral' Stance Regarding Elections

PY1305232994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1708 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Brasilia, 12 May (EFE)—Political sources have reported here today that the U.S. Government has asserted to Brazilian Socialist presidential candidate Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva this week in Washington that it will remain neutral regarding the 3 October general elections to be held in Brazil.

Workers Party (PT) leader Lula da Silva, 48, is the favorite in the upcoming presidential elections.

After meeting Alexander Watson, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, in Washington on 11 May, Da Silva said: "It is very important that a country such as the United States maintain the impartial position President Bill Clinton has been postulating regarding the Brazilian elections."

The Socialist presidential candidate will return to Brazil today, after a five-day visit to Washington, New York, and Boston. During the trip he met officials of the U.S. executive branch and Congress, and gave several lectures at Harvard and other universities.

Da Silva told Watson that he opposes the U.S. embargo against Cuba because it punishes the Cuban people. He added that he also opposes the choice of Miami—where most anti-Castro Cubans live—as the venue for the summit of American chiefs of state convened by Bill Clinton for 9 and 10 December.

The PT leader has defended the idea that Cuban President Fidel Castro, who has not been invited, should participate in the summit.

PT Document Calls for Action Against Economic Plan

PY1305224294 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 May 94 p 3

[Report by Jose Luiz Longo in Sao Paulo]

[Text] A Workers Party [PT] document on the current situation is urging PT members, union leaders, and supporters to mobilize against the salary shrinkage provoked by the Real Plan. The drafters of the document believe the PT should promote a national movement calling for structural reforms in the country. They thus consider it essential that the party, its economists, and congressmen launch an offensive to publicly fight the plan.

The call for a mobilization against the economic plan is made in a document entitled "The Current Situation and Our Campaign Strategy," which was drafted by a committee appointed by the PT national executive board and approved at the PT national meeting in Brasilia on 1 May.

Coordinators of Luis Inacio Lula da Silva's campaign believe that unfulfilled social and salary demands at this time will later result in a wave of demands on the future government. They deny, however, charges that they are instigating political strikes to benefit Lula's campaign.

Economist Joao Machado, who is the deputy coordinator of the PT program, said: "The fact is that the PT is urging all those who are unhappy with the government's plan to vent their dissatisfaction. It is ridiculous, however, to charge us with instigating political strikes."

Lula Denies PT Responsibility for 'Wave of Strikes'

PY1405013594 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 May 94 p 3

[Text] New York—Luis Inacio Lula da Silva yesterday denied here reports that the Workers Party [PT] is seeking to foment chaos through a wave of strikes with a view to jeopardizing the government's economic plan and, consequently, undermining the candidacy of Brazilian Social Democracy Party [PSDB] candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Lula denied having masterminded a maneuver to unleash election-oriented strikes. He said that these strikes are just "a reflection of the government's incompetence."

Lula said: "Instead of taking the appropriate measures the government, out of sheer lack of competence, is trying to blame us for something over which we have absolutely no responsibility. It is absurd to charge the PT with fomenting these strikes. The de facto regime used to make this type of charge."

In Lula's opinion, the strikes are being motivated by salary demands alone. He said: "The strikes are a result of this faltering economic program. The problem is clearly economic; it is devoid of any ideological content."

During a meeting he held on 11 May with Sterie Beza, director of the IMF Western Hemisphere Department, at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington, Lula promised some sort of future agreement should he be elected president. After hearing Lula explain his economic program and asking for more details about his stabilization and revenue policy, Beza, who supervises all the IMF negotiations with the Brazilian Government, said: "If this is the case, it will be great. Remember, however, that if you win the elections I will expect you to keep your promises."

Lula said: "Perfect. Just remember that I will remind the IMF about the evaluation you have just made of our plan."

Influence of Polls on Political Contenders Seen

94SM0336A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 6 Apr 94 pp 30, 31

[Text] Last Saturday, a flock of ministers, governors, and mayors who had resigned their posts before the end of their terms of office took flight to try their luck at the ballot box on 3 October. Ten of the 27 governors elected in 1990 stepped down. Only one of them, Leonel Brizola of Rio de Janeiro, announced on Good Friday that he will run for the presidency. The others plan to compete for Senate seats, a race that is never easy but will be relatively pleasant. In 1994, there are two senatorial vacancies in each state—a situation that offers each contender twice the chances of victory as in 1990, when only one seat was available. The last governor to make a decision was Geraldo Bulhoes, of Alagoas. Until very early Saturday morning, Bulhoes was in Maceio putting together a "superslate" inspired by the big man himself, former President Fernando Collor. The name of Rosane Collor came up at the negotiating table, but was promptly rejected by the former president. Interested in running for a Chamber seat, his wife, *toalheira* Denilma Bulhoes was hoping until the last minute that her husband would resign and thus remove any legal obstacle to her own campaign.

Besides FHC [Fernando Henrique Cardoso], two other stars from the Itamar Franco campaign, left office at the last minute: Mauricio Correa, who left Justice to run for governor of the Federal District, and Walter Barelli, of Labor, who is being considered as candidate for lieutenant governor of Sao Paulo on a slate with *tucano* Mario Covas. Among mayors of state capitals, all sworn in 15 months ago, the most notable departure is that of Dante de Oliveira, from Cuiaba, who will run for the governorship of Mato Grosso under the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] banner. Their chances for success and the reasons that led governors and mayors to enter the race vary, but all took as their starting point a decisive factor—the opinion polls. Nowadays no candidate makes decisions based on the enthusiasm or the advice of his friends. They decide on the basis of research institute surveys.

A month ago, when he ranked second in the polls among candidates for Planalto Palace, Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf announced his "irrevocable" decision to run for president. Last week, when the same polls reported he had been overtaken by Fernando Henrique, Maluf summoned the press and read a statement in which he said: "I am a candidate for president...in 1998." Another poll encouraged him to make the same decision. Eight out of 10 respondents who had voted for Maluf said they were opposed to his stepping down as mayor. Before making his final decision, he listened to some advice, and later, a promise. "If those who voted for you don't want you to run, it would be wiser not to," Deputy Antonio Delfim Netto told him.

On Monday, Maluf had dinner with businessman Roberto Marinho, of Globo Network. "He told me that if I were to run, he would wish me luck, but that I am young and can wait," Maluf himself revealed. "He said that if I run, he would treat me fairly, which is saying quite a bit." On Tuesday in Brasilia, Maluf met with top PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] leaders and heard the same suggestion. "You are like Corinthians [a Sao Paulo soccer team], the *paulistanos'* emotional favorite, and you cannot let them down," Senator Esperidiao Amin told him. "You could run, but the people want you to stay." It is true that the PFL's [Liberal Front Party] preference for Fernando Henrique also influenced Maluf's decision. But the absence of allies has never played a decisive role in the mayor's decisions. Since 1978, he has run for president twice, sought the governorship three times (winning once, in an indirect election), run twice for mayor (and won once), and tried for and won a seat as federal deputy in 1982. If Maluf's ratings had been better in 1994, there is no doubt he would have stayed in the race.

Free Sample

The year 1994 is different from 1989 because of a crucial element. The election five years ago was for a single office. Twenty-two candidates for president flooded the first round. Most were merely adventurers who entered the contest without the slightest chance of victory and without letting that bother them. They were interested in giving voters a free sample for the 1990 elections, when governorships, the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, and seats in state legislatures would be at stake. The 1994 elections will cover all those posts at one time. There will not be another chance like this until 1998 when, as was approved in the constitutional revision, "joint" elections will be held again. The only opportunity between now and then will come in 1996, but those will be municipal elections—for mayor and city councilmen.

Key to the Vault

"We won't see any 'parachutist' candidates in 1994, the ones who enter today's race so they can try to win tomorrow's," explained Professor Francisco Weffort, of the University of Sao Paulo. "Anyone who runs now is really serious about it." A typical feature of a "joint" [*casada*] election are the alliances, which are very important. A candidate for the presidency needs solid support in each state if he is to prevent an internal hemorrhage of his electorate. Likewise, a candidate for governor will try to ally himself with a presidential candidate who would help to fill, rather than empty, his basket of votes. The government apparatus is another ingredient in the mortar between the bricks of this state/federal edifice. That mass of public funds, jobs, and influence helps explain why 17 governors decided to remain in office.

"I cannot just hand over to Fernando Henrique a state government like that of Rio Grande do Sul," admitted Governor Alceu Collares, a Brizola campaign worker who, were he to leave Piratini, would have to turn over the key to the vault to his lieutenant, *tucano* Joao Gilberto Coelho, from whom he is estranged. An identical situation prevails in Ciro Gomes's Ceara State, but the party banners are reversed. *Tucano* Ciro Gomes is popular enough to run for and easily win a seat in the Senate. His headache is his lieutenant governor, Lucio Alcantara, a *brizolista* who was demanding his share of the government pie even before the campaign began. Apprehensive, last week Ciro Gomes said he would wait until his term ends before starting studies at Harvard University in the United States.

Reheated Cafe au Lait

Whether to stay in government or leave prematurely is a decision that each politician also makes on the basis of his own performance. Most Bahia voters believe Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes [ACM] is doing an excellent job, and he said farewell to the post in grand style last week to run for the Senate. His final act was to free 154 prisoners who had been jailed for petty theft, such as stealing a package of candy or a pair of glasses. Always with an eye to topics that can seize the voters' attention, ACM explained his gesture as a protest "in a country where the judiciary never takes action against the rich."

In a different situation are the governors of the country's most populous and wealthiest states: Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho of Sao Paulo, and Helio Garcia, of Minas Gerais. On the popularity list among governors, Fleury ranks just above Helio Garcia, who is next-to-last. The booby prize belongs to Leonel Brizola. Fleury and Helio Garcia spent the last few months cooking up conversations in an atmosphere of mystery. They even gave the impression they were reheating the old cafe au lait of the Old Republic. Actually, Fleury was playing at being a presidential candidate until Orestes Quercia reentered the ticket-taker's booth at the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] amusement park. On behalf of the Minas distillery, Garcia tried to hitch a ride as vice president on Fernando Henrique's slate. Turned down, he had neither the heart nor the ratings to attempt a run for the Senate. [Box pp 30-31]

Dance of the Governors

- **Goias:** Governor Iris Rezende, of the PMDB, will run for the Senate. Since Lieutenant Governor Maguito Vilela will be a candidate for governor, the state will be governed by the president of the state legislature, Agenor Rodrigues de Rezende, of the PMDB.
- **Brasilia:** Singed by the Budget CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee], Governor Joaquim Roriz of the PP [Progressive Party] announced he will stay put. He will try to get his public works secretary, Jose Roberto Arruda, elected to succeed him.
- **Parana:** Governor Roberto Requiao of the PMDB resigned to seek his party's nomination for president. If he is not successful, he will run for the Senate. In his place will be Lieutenant Governor Mario Pereira, his former transportation secretary.
- **Rio Grande do Sul:** Governor Alceu Collares, of the PDT, said he is staying in office. He does not want to hand over the governorship to his lieutenant, *tucano* Joao Gilberto, with whom he is not on speaking terms.
- **Ceara:** *Tucano* Governor Ciro Gomes, Brazil's most popular, with a 69 percent approval rating, announced he will stay on. Tasso Jereissati, president of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], may be a candidate to succeed him.
- **Pernambuco:** Governor Joaquim Francisco, of the PFL [Liberal Front Party], said he will serve out his full term. At the last minute, Recife Mayor Jarbas Vasconcelos, of the PMDB, announced he is staying. He gave up the idea of running for the state governorship in an alliance forged with Joaquim Francisco to defeat Miguel Arraes, the candidate of the PSB-PT [Brazilian Socialist Party/Workers Party] coalition.
- **Bahia:** Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, of the PFL, resigned to run for the Senate. Lieutenant Governor Paulo Souto is a candidate for governor, and the president of the state Assembly, Antonio Imbassahy, will run for the Chamber. So, Bahia will be governed by the president of the Court of Justice, Ruy Trindade, who will call indirect elections in 30 days. Likely to be chosen is state Transportation Secretary Raimundo Britto.
- **Minas Gerais:** Governor Helio Garcia, of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], tried until the last minute to step down to become Fernando Henrique's running mate. Unsuccessful, he called a press conference to say that he will serve out his term.
- **Rio de Janeiro:** Governor Leonel Brizola, the country's least popular governor, left office to run for president. Nilo Garcia, his lieutenant and current secretary of the Civil Police, will take over.
- **Sao Paulo:** Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, of the PMDB, will remain in office and support the presidential candidacy of his political godfather, Orestes Quercia. Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf gave up the idea of running for president and will stay until the end of his mandate.
- **Santa Catarina:** Governor Vilson Kleinubing, of the PFL, will try for the Senate, or for the vice presidency on Fernando Henrique's slate. He will pass on the post to his lieutenant governor, Antonio Carlos Konder Reis, of the PPR. Reis is a cousin of Jorge Bornhausen, president of the PFL.

Chile

Canadian Trade Official Favors Chilean NAFTA Membership

PY1305221994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1447 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Santiago, 13 May (EFE)—Allen Kilpatrick, Canadian international trade vice minister, said here today that he firmly supports Chile's entry into NAFTA.

Today Kilpatrick participated in the signing of a $20 million loan agreement that will be used to finance the purchasing of equipment for the new Panque Hydroelectric Power Plant that is being built in southern Chile.

The Canadian official stressed that in his government's opinion "there are no inadequacies whatsoever" preventing Chile's incorporation into NAFTA, and that Ottawa has officially communicated its favorable stance to Santiago.

Initial reports indicate that Chile's incorporation could be "relatively quick" because only a few changes "of little importance" would be necessary, Kilpatrick added.

The minister said Canadian participation in NAFTA was positive, adding that even though the agreement was extended to include Mexico in January 1994, trade between the two countries had already started to increase.

Allen Kilpatrick emphasized the importance of Canadian investments in Chile, which total $3 billion and are mainly concentrated in the mining area. Kilpatrick added that current studies contemplate additional investments of $1 billion in Chile.

Three Cuban Sailors Defect, Request Political Asylum

PY1305203294 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 May 94

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Text] Two sailors from a Cuban ship anchored in Lirquen, in the Eighth Region, have requested political asylum in Chile.

The ship, carrying a Cuban flag and named Primer Congreso del Partido, arrived in Chile on 26 April from

Chimbote, Peru, with a 29-member crew. This ship anchored in Lirquen to load 3,000 tons of fishmeal.

[Begin Lirquen Customs Official Rene Lobos recording] The ship left at 0130 and is now sailing around Lirquen Bay. [end recording]

The two sailors who defected have been identified as Orlando Mayo Lopez, physician, and Wilfredo Falaro Escandon, cook. They both come from Havana and arrived last night, at approximately 2200, at the Investigative Police station in Concepcion.

[Begin Concepcion Investigative Police Official Oscar Barra recording] What they want is for Chilean authorities to help them travel to Miami, where they have some relatives and job opportunities.

[Unidentified reporter] Are they asking for political asylum?

[Barra] That is more or less what they want, but they do not know the legal term. [end recording]

The two Cubans remain at the Investigative Police station as guests and have refused, so far, to meet with the media. They are awaiting the decision of administrative authorities.

[Begin Regional Ministry Secretariat General of the Government Ariel Duffan recording] According to preliminary investigations and to what they are requesting, they are not entitled to political asylum because they are not being persecuted for political reasons, and they have not committed any crime that would entitle them to be granted political asylum. [end recording]

The captain of the Cuban ship Primer Congreso del Partido has been identified as Manuel Fuentes Sainz.

It is uncertain, however, when the Cuban ship will leave the port of Lirquen, because in addition to the two sailors that have defected, it has engine problems.

A third Cuban citizen also defected from his ship anchored in Iquique. The sailor from the Cuban ship Olguin, who has been identified as Alay Gimenez, escaped in Iquique and requested asylum.

Interior Under Secretary Belisario Velasco said that the situation of the three Cubans who have requested political asylum in Chile is being assessed. Velasco said that Interpol would be consulted before any decision is made.

Carabineros Director Stange To Resume Duties

PY1305162994 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Carabineros building was again the center of attention in view of [Carabineros Director] General Stange's return. For the second consecutive day, Gen. Stange, who is still on leave, went to his office where he met with members of the Carabineros Superior Advisory Council.

Gen. Carlos Pecchi, the Carabineros Legal Department chief, stated later that there is no legal reason why Gen. Stange should not return to duty on 17 May, adding that this is what he will do.

The Chilean Communist Party mouthpiece EL SIGLO has reported that Stange's return would prompt a cabinet crisis that will culminate in the resignation of Interior Minister German Correa.

[Begin recording] [Correa] That is not true. I will not answer reports published in EL SIGLO which is completely misinformed and has no idea of what is happening in this country.

[First unidentified reporter] Do you believe there is a campaign against you or your administration?

[Correa] No, but obviously there are some who dislike my presence at the Interior Ministry.

[Second unidentified reporter] What is the government's reaction to statements by [Stange's] Lawyer Pablo Rodriguez who insists that Gen. Stange will resume his post on 17 May.

[Correa] I have carefully not commented on this to avoid making it a household issue. It is a delicate issue that the government is handling with the required prudence. [end recording]

Victor Manuel Rebolledo, minister secretary general of the government, held an unscheduled meeting with Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] It seems Gen. Stange's return is imminent. What is the government's stance regarding his return.

[Rebolledo] I decline to comment on future developments. We are obviously discussing the issue. [end recording]

Some hours later, Minister Rebolledo again discussed the issue in Temuco.

[Begin Rebolledo recording] Gen. Stange should stay away from the Carabineros headquarters while the case is under investigation and remain on leave. [end recording]

The issue continued to be discussed at the Presidential Resort in Cerro Castillo in Vina del Mar where Interior Minister German Correa held meetings with Coalition of Parties for Democracy leaders and legislators. During this meeting, Correa stated that the Carabineros had officially informed him that Gen. Stange will resume his duties on 17 May.

Pinochet on Stange, Relations With Government

94SM0335A Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 9 Apr 94 pp 4-8

[Interview with General Augusto Pinochet, Army commander in chief, by Cristian Bofill in Santiago on 6 April]

[Excerpts] Welcoming QUE PASA into his spacious office on the fourth floor of the Armed Forces Building late in the morning of 6 April, General Augusto Pinochet seemed anxious to give the impression that he was uninvolved in the crisis that had erupted the previous day in the big building that can be seen from his office window. No matter how hard he tries to hide it, however, he knows that everyone is aware of his key role in these events. When he occupied the choicest office at La Moneda, he was instrumental in the first chapter of the current imbroglio, which culminated with the resignation of General Cesar Mendoza. Now, given the weight his opinion carries in the Armed Forces, he has a monumental influence on what happens in the crisis that has placed General Rodolfo Stange's head on the block. The general had agreed to this interview before the crisis broke, and it was supposed to focus on the release of the second part of Volume 3 of his memoirs and on his current concerns. In the event, however, the general revealed some valuable hints about his position on this new chapter. He also discussed a number of other issues, such as his relations with the current government, his conversations with Margaret Thatcher, and the wasted opportunity to privatize the Copper Corporation (Codelco).

[Bofill] When you were president, the case of the beheadings came to light, and the solution adopted was the departure of Cesar Mendoza, then director general of the Carabineros. Do you think that the same thing should be done now with Gen. Rodolfo Stange?

[Pinochet] I did not oust Gen. Mendoza. That case led to a series of problems that raised many obstacles. The general chose to tender his resignation and to clear the way for the removal of obstacles. It was his decision.

[Bofill] Did you suggest to him at that time that he obey his conscience, as the current government has done in the case of Gen. Stange?

[Pinochet] To tell someone to obey his conscience, you have to be rather monastic, rather...ascetic.

[Bofill] Why?

[Pinochet] Because you cannot have a devil selling crosses. It is like having a sinful person tell another person not to commit sins. There is a reason why Christ said that he who was without sin should cast the first stone, and no one threw any stones. What we have now is a whole lot of Pharisees casting the first stone. That has to be examined very closely. This problem is very deep; it has other facets.

[Bofill] What other facets?

[Pinochet] There is a trial that has not finished yet. It is in progress. The final word has not been spoken. As I said, you have to look at other facets. As for the comparison with the case of Gen. Mendoza, this is quite different. Mendoza, who wanted to clear up matters, was a member of the Military Junta. He was in the government. But now Gen. Stange is only director general of the Carabineros. He does not have any government responsibilities, as the other general did.

[Bofill] Aside from that difference, do you believe that Gen. Stange should step down?

[Pinochet] That is up to him. I cannot tell him whether he should resign. I do not know. I cannot get into Gen. Stange's head.

[Bofill] It is known that Gen. Stange has talked to you and asked for your opinion. What did you tell him?

[Pinochet] You are wrong. I have not talked to Gen. Stange about this matter.

[Bofill] But you do, at least, admit that you have talked about it with Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma?

[Pinochet] What I have talked about with the defense minister are matters related to the Army and the ministry. We have talked about the military missions and the visits he plans to make to Army units. I have not discussed this issue with either Gen. Stange or the defense minister.

[Bofill] Does that mean that your position on the matter will be made public only if the government convenes the National Security Council to propose the retirement of Gen. Stange?

[Pinochet] In my opinion, it should think more than twice before convening the National Security Council. In the first place, it is questionable whether this case falls within the purview of the National Security Council.

[Bofill] But that is the legal mechanism the government has available to it to bring about the retirement of Stange or of the commanders in chief of the other branches.

[Pinochet] Yes, that is the legal mechanism. But it should think twice before using it, because it is an extreme measure. You go to the National Security Council after numerous events have taken place, and once you get there, that is the end of the line. Everything ends there. That is why I say it is an extreme measure.

[Bofill] For that same reason, would it not be a good idea to go right away to the National Security Council to bring the matter to a conclusion as quickly as possible?

[Pinochet] The problem lies in what I pointed out earlier: The situation should be studied very thoroughly, and everything should be considered several times before making a decision, because first it must be determined whether this is a matter for the Council to deal with. I will not tell you what my position is, but I do want to make it very clear that this problem must be analyzed through and through.

[Bofill] Supposing that the National Security Council is ultimately convened. How would you vote?

[Pinochet] That will be revealed at the time of the vote.

[Bofill] When there were problems between the Army and La Moneda in the previous administration, there were some very tense times, such as the liaison exercise and the so-called *boinazo* [display of force by the military in May 1993]. Do you think similar situations could occur now between the Carabineros and the current administration?

[Pinochet] I cannot tell you anything about the current situation in the Carabineros. What I want to make very clear is that during the previous administration, the Army always respected the law that was in effect at the time. On the other hand, I think that the periods of good relations far outweigh those that you have mentioned, and in any case, they were resolved satisfactorily.

[Bofill] With regard to the human rights cases involving the Army, what problems do you see in the future?

[Pinochet] I do not see any problem in the future. The normal course of action is being taken. The majority of the cases have qualified for amnesty. What problem could there be?

[Bofill] The case of General Manuel Contreras, for example.

[Pinochet] And why will there be a problem in that case? He had his trial, the case is on appeal, and ultimately a final judgment will be forthcoming. I do not see any hindrance. The courts are handling pending human rights cases, and that is the branch of government that will make the final decision, and that decision, of course, will be respected.

[Bofill] Many people say you seem more serene than before, and they say it is due to....

[Pinochet] (Laughing) Due to my age, no doubt.

[Bofill] Some may think that. But the majority say it is because you have good relations with the new government, especially with Minister Perez Yoma.

[Pinochet] There are several things going on there. I like to see military matters treated as military matters, without interference from people who want to insert issues that are of concern to people who know nothing about the military. Things must be viewed with professionalism.

[Bofill] Does that mean that former Minister Patricio Rojas knew nothing about the military?

[Pinochet] No, I am referring to people. What I am saying is that I see a difference in the approach. Now, issues are dealt with, they are discussed, and ideas and concepts are seen with precision. It is very clear what actions will be taken. I see that difference. For me, it is very important for issues to be dealt with properly. I have been in the military for 62 years, and I have held every job. I have a lot of experience, and that is very valuable for a commander in chief.

[Bofill] There has been a lot of talk about a number of signs that you are more in sync with this government. One of them is the fact that your wife recently attended a reception at La Moneda, where she had not set foot in four years.

[Pinochet] Our visit to La Moneda was a friendly gesture. [passage omitted]

[Bofill] Getting back to the previous administration, did the contact you had during that period with Socialists such as former Minister Enrique Correa change your opinion of that political sector?

[Pinochet] I do not want to get into that, because it is a political matter. I will answer questions about the Army. I must be extremely prudent about this.

[Bofill] One of the most controversial issues involving the Army recently was the departure of General Jorge Ballerino....

[Pinochet] That is a very simple problem. Gen. Ballerino was 10,000 kilometers away, and he saw the situation from a different perspective. Gen. Lucar was able to remain one more year in the job of vice commander in chief, which blocked the way for Gen. Ballerino. So he had to remain in the post of inspector general of the Army, which is the same as the chief of staff or the commander of the First Corps, because they all come under me. But someone butted in and gave him bad advice, and, well, everyone knows how things turned out.

[Bofill] Who was it who butted in and gave him bad advice?

[Pinochet] Someone. [passage omitted]

[Bofill] You do acknowledge that you had problems with the United States.

[Pinochet] No one has behaved more badly toward us than the Americans did during our time in government. I will always remember that. Today I refuse to buy as much as a rifle from the United States, because tomorrow I may have a problem and they will not give me ammunition. [passage omitted]

[Bofill] One issue that is in the forefront throughout the world at this time is corruption. Can you say for certain that during the 17 years you were in power, not a single high-ranking official abused his office for some purpose?

[Pinochet] I never had any complaints about my officials, with very few exceptions. And when I did have a complaint, I had the official investigated. The officials in my government, first of all, earned less than they do now, and people worked more for the good of Chile than for their own good. I had very dedicated mayors, and I had officials who could have earned 20 times more working for a bank than for the government.

[Bofill] That is all very well, but human weaknesses do not recognize ideological or political borders. Why do you think the corruption issue is so hot now?

[Pinochet] Well, because people want to own more things. And television and advertising undoubtedly contribute to that. Everyone wants to have a nice car, a nice house, a nice swimming pool, they want to have a good time, go to a nice place and be served a good whisky. Those things do not tempt me. Unfortunately, I do not drink, not even copper [yo no tomo ni cobre]...

[Bofill] All of these temptations that you mention are seductive not only to civilians, but also to military men. To what extent are the low salaries in the Armed Forces a dangerous factor in the spread of corruption?

[Pinochet] Look, it might be dangerous, but we take steps to make sure our men are well off. They are able to go on very inexpensive vacations, something that other people have to spend much more on. They wear uniforms, so they do not have to spend money on civilian clothing if they do not want to...I will not tell you they are not asking for raises—they do ask. The cost of living has gone up a lot, more than the CPI. You used to be able to fill your cart, buy a whole week's groceries at the store for 1,000 pesos. Now that does not buy enough for two days, not even one. They are asking for raises to cover necessities, but this is not a problem that can affect us in the sense that your question implies.

[Bofill] One of the great contradictions that people mention about your government was that it never privatized Codelco. Why not? Do you think that if that had been done, scandals like the current one could have been avoided?

[Pinochet] I do not buy the notion that scandals happen only in state-run companies. Scandals happen with or without privatization.

[Bofill] But why did you not privatize Codelco as you did with so many other state-run companies?

[Pinochet] In the first place, because it was important for national defense. It was thought that we needed to have all the copper in our hands. Later on, however, I favored privatizing it. What happened was that internal factions formed in opposition to it, and even though it was a good idea, I could not do it.

[Bofill] You were in charge of this country. There were a lot of other things that people opposed, but you did them anyway....

[Pinochet] Well, there are things and there are things. As I said, if it were just up to me, Codelco would be in private hands right now. Do not forget that I was not alone. A number of steps had to be followed to privatize a company, and that was the idea. In the northern section, the southern section. It did not just happen. You cannot do everything.

[Bofill] Former President Aylwin had a problem with the Codelco scandal that has affected you as well: seeing relatives involved in scandals. In your case, it was the matter of your eldest son's checks. How does that affect you?

[Pinochet] I think it is a great injustice, because people immediately connect it with the person who is at the top. In the case of my son's checks, it was concluded that he was telling the truth. People kept the issue alive because I was commander in chief. The goal was to attack the commander in chief.

[Bofill] Is that kind of problem more difficult to face than others?

[Pinochet] (Smiling slyly and touching his left hand with the tips of his right fingers) In time, you develop a thick skin. You learn how to confront these things. I have the hide of a crocodile.

[Bofill] Do you think former President Aylwin does, too?

[Pinochet] Do not get me involved in that.

[Bofill] Is it true you plan to travel to Russia?

[Pinochet] I will tell you a story. I was invited to Russia, before Yeltsin assumed power. The people who brought me the invitation were right there where you are sitting and in the chair across from you. But later they came back and asked me to please postpone the trip for a little while because everyone was in the KGB. There was a woman who controlled them with her glance. Then the Yeltsin problem arose, and I did not have anything more to do with them. Since then, I have not accepted any invitations. But of course I would like to visit Russia, a country with a long history, and I like history a lot. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Failed Assassination of Santander Governor Reported

PA1505133094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1737 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 May (NOTIMEX)—The Army has revealed that it found at least five remote-controlled bombs, which guerrillas planned to set off today on the helicopter of Santander Department Governor Juan Carlos Duarte. According to the military report, the bombs had been planted by the rebels on the runway at the terminal area of Malaga, located some 370 km from Santa Fe de Bogota. Governor Duarte and his entourage were scheduled to land in Malaga.

According to Army sources, after the bombs were detected in Malaga, authorities decided to divert Duarte's plane. The source added that five suspects were captured in connection with this failed action.

The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB], made up of 12,000 combatants, is engaged in an offensive to hinder the 29 May presidential elections. As a result, the incident in Malaga has not been ruled out to be associated with the sabotage campaign by the CNGSB. The report indicates that the Army of National Liberation—a CNGSB group—operates in the Garcia Rovira area, where the attempt against Duarte was planned.

Duarte, who was preparing to inaugurate various social welfare projects in the area, said that despite the failed attempt, he will continue touring the department. Santander is among the most unstable departments nationwide.

According to the source, the Army arrested four guerrillas and seized weapons and political propaganda in Antioquia Department during operations to guarantee normal elections on 29 May.

Two years ago, the CNGSB chose not to participate in peace negotiations held by the government of President Cesar Gaviria in Tlaxcala, Mexico because of disagreements on the agenda to be discussed.

Candidates Samper, Pastrana Debate 12 May

PA1505011494 Santa Fe de Bogota Television Networks in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 May 94

[Debate between presidential candidates Ernesto Samper of the Liberal Party and Andres Pastrana of the Conservative Party, moderated by reporters Yamid Amat, Maria Elvira Samper, and Maria Isabel Rueda, at the Inravision Television Network studios in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Amat] Dr. Pastrana, many times during your campaign you said, you reiterated this clearly in the speech you delivered to National Exporters Association, that your objective is to lower inflation to eight percent. One understands inflation cannot be reduced to eight percent without reducing salaries by eight percent. Thus, must salaried workers in Colombia expect an eight percent salary reduction from you?

[Pastrana] No. This is a matter of protecting the pocketbooks of Colombians. I am going to give you some information. More than half of the salary increases Colombians received in December have dissipated so far this year as a result of inflation. They no longer enjoy this raise.

That is why I have insisted the worst enemy of exporters and agriculture is revaluation. That is why we must also fight revaluations, to be able to eliminate inflation. What am I proposing? Let us seek a healthy fiscal discipline and control public spending. Did you know 50 percent of inflation comes from excess public spending? That is why we must establish healthy fiscal discipline and prioritize spending.

Second, what do we accomplish by reducing inflation? This will permit us to defend the pocketbooks of Colombians. I insist, in December, Colombians received a wage hike and already in January the cost of public services skyrocketed. That is why we are seeking efficiency in public services. We want to lower the rates collected for public services. I have also proposed to lower the costs of education. A large part of the basic market basket is also due to the high cost of education. We must defend the salary of Colombians and we are going to lower inflation to less than 10 percent before my term in office expires. This has already been done in Argentina. Bolivia did it; Peru managed to do it; and we will do it in Colombia to defend the pocketbooks of Colombians and maintain basic market prices at appropriate levels.

[Amat] Dr. Pastrana, with all due respect, one of the things for which you are criticized is that when one asks you a question, you respond to something different. I asked you specifically if workers can expect an eight percent adjustment in their salaries from you?

[Pastrana] No, no, no, no. Workers must expect an adjustment in relation to their salaries. Regarding the question you asked, it is inconceivable that when workers get 18- to 20-percent wage hikes, in early January, the rates for public services increased 20 to 22 percent, gasoline increased by rates higher than the wage hike. What I am saying is the government cannot continue to play with workers in Colombia. In December, they get a wage hike and only three or four months later the increase is reduced to half.

[Amat] Thank you very much, Dr. Pastrana. Dr. Samper, your turn now.

[Ernesto Samper] Well, I think Colombians have been very much disappointed by Dr. Pastrana's response. I think he has only addressed generalities about inflation. What we have at stake here are two fundamental variables, namely inflation and unemployment.

With an eight percent inflation rate, we can think unemployment will go up 15 percent, meaning there will be an additional 500,000 people without jobs. I do not know what Dr. Pastrana will really do with those 500,000 additional unemployed persons, which under the current circumstances is what would result from an eight percent inflation rate. What I have been proposing is a new system to handle inflation. Everyone handles inflation from the demand side, that is, taking resources from the people's pockets. Let us not raise the price for coffee growers, let us not raise workers' wages, let us not increase pensions to pensioners, because that is inflationary.

What is inflation? Inflation is many pesos seeking a few products. What we must do then is to produce, to produce food, to produce new and cheaper services, and that way, and only that way, handle the topic of inflation demands. That is how we can really lower the people's cost of living without hurting their salaries and revenues.

[Amat] Dr. Samper, almost the same thing that happened with Dr. Pastrana happened now. What will your policy be on the workers' wages?

[Ernesto Samper] The policy is very simple, and the same thing did not happen. The policy is very simple. Salaries must go up at least to the same level as the inflation rate. I am not going to have the situation we have experienced these past few years in which salaries are climbing up the stairs and the cost of living, tuitions, and public services are going up on the elevator.

[Amat] You now have one minute to respond.

[Pastrana] I am glad Dr. Samper agrees with me. He is saying that while some things are going up, others are coming down. That is precisely it, the high costs of public service rates. Dr. Samper is contradicting himself, and it becomes clear on this topic. He says he is going to curb the inflation rate, stamp out revaluation, yet he is proposing white-elephant projects to the country, projects for 3 billion pesos or 4 billion pesos like the Bogota subway. That is a project that will generate a revaluation. That is why my proposal is different. I am asking the country: Is Cali, Barranquilla, or the coast ready to pay....

[Ernesto Samper, interrupting] I would like to know....

[Pastrana, interrupting] We should [words indistinct]....

[Ernesto Samper, interrupting] Dr. Pastrana is....

[Pastrana, interrupting] Let us prevent revaluation because [words indistinct]....

[Amat, interrupting] Dr. Pastrana, Dr. Samper, Dr. Samper, please.

[Ernesto Samper] I am asking him to let me speak, because he is talking very fast.

[Amat] Dr. Samper, please. [words indistinct]

[Ernesto Samper] So to be more prudent means [words indistinct] [Maria Samper and Rueda laugh]

[Amat] Dr. Samper, please.

[Ernesto Samper] First, I want Dr. Pastrana to tell the viewers that the Bogota subway project is a white elephant. Just eight days ago, he said it was necessary....

[Pastrana, interrupting] It is a white elephant within the concept that Dr. Samper is proposing conducting it through [words indistinct]....

[Rueda, interrupting] Please.

[Ernesto Samper] Talking faster will not make you win.

[Pastrana] I think the topic....

[Ernesto Samper, interrupting] Take it easy.

[Pastrana, interrupting] That is why I am proposing granting contracts....

[Ernesto Samper, interrupting] Take it easy.

[Pastrana] ...to private business. I think this is very important....

[Ernesto Samper, interrupting] Do not include all the topics because you have 30 minutes.

[Rueda] Let us have some order. Let us have order, please.

[Amat] With all due respect, next is Maria Isabel Rueda.

[Rueda] Maria Elvira.

[Amat] Pardon me. Maria Elvira Samper asks the next question.

[Maria Samper] Dr. Samper, the economic model of the Gaviria government is neoliberal. We have seen that the views of the two candidates do not radically move away from this model. Still, we have seen a sort of switching of cables here. Whereas the opposition candidate, Andres Pastrana, seems to be a faithful follower of this economic model, you seem to be a revisionist of this model. How revisionist are you?

[Ernesto Samper] Maria Elvira, I participated in drafting the opening program. As development minister, I supported President Gaviria in the reduction of tariffs, giving flexibility to the labor market, and increasing private investment. I was involved in the process of opening. Right at that time, I mentioned some difficulties in implementing this model. I talk of gradual actions. Why? Because, I said, if we move the model too fast, we will find the agricultural sector will become depressed, as has happened. The same thing happened with the export sector. That is the gradual action consisted of, namely, giving conditions and possibilities to businessmen so they could adjust to the new model of competition.

What must we do as of now to prevent a return to the past? There are two very clear proposals: Dr. Pastrana's, which calls for an intensification and radicalization of openness, which is stated on page 19 of his government program; and mine, which is to complement openness, to initiate the social phase of openness by putting feelings into the process. In other words, we must promote social investments and development and create the conditions for more Colombians to feel that they are part of the openness process. That is my position.

[Maria Samper] Dr. Samper, will you pursue the privatization process? If you do, what institutions will be involved? Will Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], for example, be among them? And can privatization be carried out in a manner such that state monopolies will be unable to become private monopolies and thus remain in the hands of the few?

[Ernesto Samper] I will not privatize Ecopetrol. I am definitely not going to privatize Ecopetrol and I am not going to turn privatization into a utopian goal. It is not taboo either.

I will not auction state institutions and be prey to what you pointed out: a transition from a public monopoly to a private monopoly. Should there be privatization processes they will be accompanied by democratization. I will not privatize anything that, socially speaking, should be the exclusive responsibility of the state, such as health and education.

[Maria Samper] Dr. Pastrana, it is almost unanimously agreed that openness has been reversed. While imports have increased 50 percent, exports stand at scarcely 10 percent. How would you correct this model of reverse openness?

[Pastrana] I thought, Maria Elvira, that you would ask me the same question—if I would pursue privatization—which I believe is an important one. I will give you the facts. In February (?1990) Dr. Samper said: I will not pursue openness. This is why, Ernesto, I believe that each of us should talk instead of interpret each another. I do not want your contradictory policy. My economic program has a human face; it calls for investments in the social field. This is what I am proposing.

First, we must start off with the basic premise that for the country to progress we need peace. We must resolve such problems as public order and citizen security, invest in our people, potable water and infrastructure; we must construct new streets, recover the countryside, and once again make farming a good business. That is the aim of my government program and that is why the entire government program I am proposing to the Colombian people establishes the people's time has come and those are the areas in which we must invest.

In education, we will guarantee the education of all Colombian youths between ages five and 15. We must also guarantee that if a Colombian is admitted to a university but lacks resources, he will be granted a loan on his word. These loans will allow us to design a new country by educating our people.

We must invest in water for 11 million Colombians who do not have potable water and we must also generate an entire social investment policy like the one I have been calling for in my government program. How are we going to....

[Maria Samper, interrupting] Dr. Pastrana, excuse me, but you have not answered my question. How will you change that model of reverse openness?

[Pastrana] I will tell you. The model was created precisely so the country could export and generate jobs; not so that it could import. Thus, I believe that first we should generate infrastructure. Colombian exporters pay between 12 and 14 percent in contract fees. Why? Because we do not have highways. I propose to construct 5,000 km of highways in four years. Because we do not have efficient ports, because we do not have communications, because the countryside is undergoing a crisis and has been neglected. We must recover the countryside and we must create a viable economic model.

[Maria Samper] Dr. Samper, you have the floor to refute Dr. Pastrana.

[Ernesto Samper] I am even more confused with this answer than with the previous one....

[Amat, interrupting] (?Would you like to sit down), Antonio? We must interrupt the program for a moment. Let us take a commercial break.

[Maria Samper] We apologize to our viewers for what just happened. Dr. Antonio Navarro, presidential candidate for the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, unexpectedly and surprisingly interrupted the debate. Speaking for myself and my colleagues, I would like to say that we feel that we have been totally insulted. In our opinion, this incident constitutes an attack on freedom of the press. Two television newscasts, exercising their right to freedom of the press, jointly decided to hold a debate with the two candidates who, in our opinion—not in our opinion but according to the polls—are virtually the leading presidential options. I hereby protest on behalf of the reporters. I also believe this incident shows a lack of respect for the two candidates who, exercising their freedom of expression, kindly accepted our invitation. Having apologized, we would like to cordially continue the debate.

[Rueda] Dr. Samper was speaking when we were interrupted. Perhaps he could continue?

[Ernesto Samper] All right, I was establishing what, in my opinion, are the two outlooks on the opening issue being presented to the country at this time. On one side, I believe, there are several sectors interested in increasing the opening process. I consider this not to be the correct way. We need to stop our course. We need to make social investments. The opening cannot turn into a game of winners and losers, with the state picking up and curing those injured by the ravages of the opening. That is why I have proposed a plan—to which I am committed and which I definitely do not think is incompatible with what has been implemented up to now—to legitimize the opening process with social investment and especially with productive employment. This has been the main proposal of my campaign. We have to understand that 46 percent of the Colombians are in a situation of critical poverty and that any social, educational, or health measure will be seen simply as a remedial assistance solution. Productive employment is what will allow the country to truly achieve a social development that will afford people the possibility to, with their own efforts, procure and generate their own well-being. In my government, social policy will not be the younger sister of economic policy. Mainly, this policy will allow us to advance socially without sacrificing our growth goals. This is how I see it and I have moved to advance to the second phase of the opening process.

[Rueda] Dr. Pastrana, do you have anything to add?

[Pastrana] Yes, the important thing.... [pauses] I disagree with Dr. Samper, of course, because I believe the important thing is for the country to start doing well. Nevertheless, what good does it do for the country to do well if its people are not doing well? That is why we have to find ways for the country to grow, but together with the people. How are we going to get it to grow with the people? By investing, as I propose, in education, potable water, infrastructure, lowering costs for exporters so they can compete in international markets, make roads for farmers so they can sell their products not only in the national markets but in the international sphere too. We have to establish all the mechanisms that will allow us to have infrastructure, efficiency in our ports, communications. We have to conduct an opening process that truly works and not only—as Maria Elvira has said—for the country to import. No, we have to find a way for the model to work for exports and to generate jobs, as I am proposing to Colombians.

[Rueda] Dr. Pastrana, you have mentioned investments. In this administration—I believe President Gaviria himself acknowledges this—social investment has been applied to the fields of justice and security. For the viewers who are not experts in economics to understand, this means it took money away from the poor to give it to security and justice, which were national priorities. How will this situation be broached in your government?

[Pastrana] I propose that we maintain, I believe we must sustain our investment in justice in Colombia because we cannot have impunity and we must have a Prosecutor's Office that works. We have to invest resources in this sector. We have to invest resources in our Armed Forces so that our soldiers can acquire professionalism to the benefit of Colombia. We have to invest, however—this is my proposal—between 10 and 12 percent of the GNP in the social sphere and by the end of my government we will have done this. We will invest in all the programs I have mentioned already.

[Rueda] That is, when you are president, if you get to be president, you will give more money than is given today....

[Pastrana, interrupting] To social investment, to the people. We are going to invest in the people.

[Rueda] You are going to decrease the amounts given to the Army and to justice?

[Pastrana] No, we have to maintain those investments. The Army receives approximately 2.5 or 2.8 percent and I believe we have to maintain this. We have to professionalize the Army....

[Rueda, interrupting] This means you will not give them more money?

[Pastrana] We have to professionalize the Army. I propose that we end mandatory conscription and that we gradually decrease the size of the Army. President Gaviria has already talked about 10,000 new professional soldiers and I believe we must gradually....

[Rueda, interrupting] Professional soldiers cost more money, however?

[Pastrana] ...gradually we will increase it. We will be able to do so if we give priority to expenses as I have proposed. This means that investments must be made on a priority basis and the social sector is our priority.

[Rueda] Dr. Samper, please, the same question for you.

[Ernesto Samper] Let us see. First, I am glad that Dr. Pastrana is looking into the obligatory military service idea. On 15 September 1992, he voted in the Senate in favor of the draft. Second, I fully agree with Maria Isabel that to speak of professionalizing the Army and simultaneously speak of reduced Armed Forces expenses is a contradiction. A professional soldier costs 3.5 times what a conscripted soldier costs. Third, what are we going to do? We will effectively increase social investments, not to 12 percent, but to 15 percent. This means increasing what is defined as social investment—housing, education, and health—from $4.2 billion to $10 billion in 1998, thus covering 15 percent of the GNP. Chile did it, Mexico did it, and we also can do it if we rationalize expenses, if we increase the efficiency of social expenditures, and if we make allowances while we gradually attain peace—I am going to attain peace—to accommodate different expenses to replace security and defense expenditures.

[Maria Samper] I have two questions for both of you. Both of you speak beautifully of social investments, but the question is obvious: Where will the money come from? Dr. Pastrana, regarding taxes, will you raise them? Will you lower them?

[Pastrana] First, I want to reply to Dr. Samper that I voted for the military service because the choice was either to end it or keep it. As with everyone else in the Congress, I voted that to maintain the military service. What we need to do is end it gradually. Second: Peace is the country's top priority. We must find mechanisms to consolidate peace and end impunity in Colombia. We do not believe in impunity. The last planning study indicates that 97 percent of the cases go unpunished. We need to investigate there.

[Maria Samper] But Dr. Pastrana, excuse me, please reply to my question about taxes. I want your pledge to the country. Briefly, give me your tax policy.

[Pastrana] Regarding tax policies, I have proposed reducing the income tax from 37.5 percent to 30 percent. Dr. Samper voted for this when he was senator in 1986, and I feel that was very important—to drop the rate from 40 percent to 30 percent. We do not uphold the notion that because we lower taxes we will not collect more. Dr. Samper knows as well as I do the economic theory that by lowering taxes there could well be greater revenues. How? Because we will control tax evasion, we will attract investments, this will generate more jobs, we will also democratize and broaden the tax base, and I believe we have to match the 1986 reforms—dropping the rate from 37.5 percent to 30 percent. By controlling expenses we will be able to invest in social areas, as I propose.

[Maria Samper] Dr. Samper.

[Ernesto Samper] Well, to say one is going to reduce taxes from 37.5 percent to 30 percent is to promise something that has already been agreed. In 1997, the war surcharge will have to be reduced anyway. It was established by law and by law it has to be removed. The problem is whether we will remove it and how will we do it. To my way of thinking, the best way to finance social development is to use part of the Cusiana resources. We can also sign up for a multilateral credit package, the type the World Bank is currently offering—fortunately the World Bank is beginning to reform its policies—and also use Inter-American Development Bank funds, which are currently aimed at health and education. These are called basic social packages. The funds exist to finance a broad and ambitious social development proposal. I have studied and located where these funds will come from. As part of the government macroeconomic program we have planned, the possibility and capacity to generate resources for social investment exists.

[Amat] Please reply yes or no. Do you believe Andres Pastrana has the capacity to handle this country?

[Ernesto Samper] Excuse me Yamid, but the question is offensive. I have a good personal impression of Dr. Pastrana and if I reply no it will be interpreted as an offense and if I say yes....

[Amat, interrupting] Do you, Dr. Pastrana, believe him capable?

[Pastrana] I do believe Dr. Samper is capable.

I believe that my political experience as an alderman, as a businessman in the private sector, as mayor of the city, as a senator, and now as a presidential candidate has been acknowledged. That is my experience. My curriculum vitae is open. I can tell Colombians that in all the posts I have occupied, I have demonstrated that I do what I say I will do. This is my commitment as president of Colombia. I am making a commitment to the Colombian people: social investment, an improved standard of living, promoting Colombia abroad, and the search for peace. Those are my commitments, and I am directing my efforts toward those objectives.

[Amat] Dr. Samper, you have not been accused of being inept but of being inconsistent. You say one thing one day, and something else the next.

[Ernesto Samper] These are common objections in politics, especially from people who do not agree with one's position and would like to see one shift to their side. My curriculum vitae is also open. Throughout my political career I have maintained a course toward social work. The other day I was thinking about the bills I promoted in Congress. I promoted the urban reforms bill, the low-cost housing project, and the accounting and cooperative bill.

I worked in the Economic Development Ministry and always oriented myself along social development lines. Even when I was ambassador to Spain, I dedicated myself to helping Colombians abroad. Colombians have a difficult time abroad. Imagine how it would be if they did not have the support of their embassies or consulates.

I am prepared to engage in any debate on inconsistency, but let us not have abstract charges like someone telling me that I am inconsistent and leaving it at that. I want to be told why I am inconsistent. Then I can work on that.

[Amat] Gentlemen, the debate is now in your hands to express any criticism you may have about the other's personality.

[Pastrana] I have a record that I can show the country.

[Amat] Pardon me, I am talking about criticizing the other.

[Pastrana] Right. That is why I want to say that I have maintained a clear, consistent policy. I have a record and the people know it. I want to defend my record because I have heard Dr. Samper's criticism and I think it is right to evaluate his work in the ministry.

When Dr. Samper was a minister, the industrial sector grew only 0.3 percent. When the ministers of the New Democratic Force were in charge—Dr. Ospina and Dr. Moreno— the sector grew more than 4.5 percent. The same happened in the construction sector. Under Dr. Samper, construction growth dropped to 0.7 percent, but under ministers like Moreno and Ospina, it grew by more than 10 percent. If we look at the trade sector, the same thing happened. Under Dr. Samper, trade grew by 1.6 percent, but under ministers Moreno, Ospina, and others of the New Force, the levels were above the 4 percent mark.

This is my record: The people of Bogota know that my work was excellent, that we worked for the city. That is the record I have to show Colombians.

[Ernesto Samper] I paved the way for Dr. Pastrana's ministers at the Economic Development Ministry. Unfortunately, I do not know if they wasted what I left them. I was put in charge of one ministry and I left two other ministries, including the Foreign Trade Ministry.

The industrial sector was happy with my work. I defended the industrial sector during this first phase of the opening.

Dr. Pastrana's tenure as mayor is a different matter. I do not deny that he did positive things. I was alderman at the time, so I know a lot about his term. Insecurity grew because he practically finished the CAI's [Immediate Attention Centers]. City district finances were practically destroyed.

[Pastrana] We have to tell Dr. Samper that Bogota's index of crime-related deaths dropped from 47,000 to 44,000 deaths in 1989. [bell begins to ring] The most important thing is...

[Ernesto Samper] The bell is ringing, Doctor.

[Pastrana] Most importantly, Dr. Samper does not even remember that those were the years of narcoterrorism, so the city was given more protection. [Everyone speaks at once]

[Pastrana] The death toll dropped from 47,000 to 44,000. The CAI's, how were they created? Does Dr. Samper even know?

[Rueda] Do you know, Dr.?

[Ernesto Samper] Okay, Dr., before you tell us, I will tell you the truth in a few words.

[Pastrana] The CAI's are the result of a policy and an experiment presented to Dr. Julio Cesar Sanchez.

[Ernesto Samper] I will tell you the truth in a few words. Had there not been...

[Rueda, interrupting] But, but..

[Pastrana] If only Dr. Samper will let me speak, I will let him speak. That is why....[pauses] Why don't you put a 30-second rule on both of us?

[Amat] We will respectfully go to commercials.

[Rueda] We will be right back.

[Maria Samper] I believe there is one very important issue for the nation: our relations with the United States. They are at their worst level in many years because of recent differences with the Colombian Prosecutor General's Office, specifically on its struggle against drug trafficking, among other things. Mr. Samper, how do you plan to reverse or fix this problem?

[Ernesto Samper] I would say that Colombia's relations with the United States have two angles: First, the trade angle. True, we are currently enjoying some advantage thanks to (?ADFA) [expansion unknown]—very important tariff reductions that we must continue to take advantage of. At last it was understood that we were not the henchmen, but the main victims of drug trafficking. Second, we have the judicial cooperation relations. I hope to convince the U.S. Government that [timer rings] judicial cooperation; I hope to convince the U.S. Government that regardless of any review of the penal code dealing with drug trafficking crimes—term reduction systems should not be cumulative, which is another point that has the U.S. Government uneasy—we can then fully reestablish our relations. I want to emphatically state that on no account would I be willing to hand over the prosecutor general's head on a platter to solve these problems. These problems must be resolved through diplomatic channels and with the harmony and understanding Colombia and the United States have experienced during the past 20 years.

[Maria Samper] The same question for you, Mr. Pastrana.

[Pastrana] I believe relations between Colombia and the United States cannot be reduced to Senator Kerry and the prosecutor general. I believe our relations should go far beyond that. We must therefore seek to strengthen our relations.

The idea is to bring drug traffickers to trial in Colombia. If Colombia is able to send evidence to allow the United States to take drug traffickers to trial, we can then send our evidence too. Therefore, we must strengthen the exchange between the two governments and this is the policy we must uphold. Drug trafficking policies not only belong to Colombia. If the United States does not take measures against drug demand, then drugs will continue to be shipped, possibly from countries other than Colombia. That is why it is important to strengthen the judicial exchange process between the two countries so as to condemn those who commit the crime.

Second, we need to strengthen economic relations between the United States and Colombia. We must make good use of Colombia's current advantage, which we will project by requesting entry into NAFTA. This is where our efforts should be directed—to ensure the country grows, that we can export, that we can gain from foreign investment, that we can attract industries, generate new jobs, and make good use of these advantages that grant us today the possibility of joining NAFTA and allow Colombia the prerogative to seek employment and well-being for the people of Colombia.

[Maria Samper] The ring is yours, gentlemen.

[Ernesto Samper] You will forgive me, Mr. Pastrana, but that coincides with what my proposal offers, and I cannot exactly rebut my own proposals, can I? Perhaps he has something to say about my idea on this.

[Pastrana] I do. What exactly has been happening lately? I was the one who presented the submitting to justice policy being used in Colombia for the first time in 1990. I asked myself then: Why do we not copy a system similar to the U.S. policy?. This is why, during the mayoral summit held in the United States...

[Amat, interrupting] Excuse me, but with all due respect, I must interrupt.

[Pastrana] Just a minute.

[Amat] The one to propose the policy of submitting to justice in Colombia was former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen in 1972.

[Pastrana] I presented a formal proposal to the mayors. I believe this is important. I presented it to the mayors and, if I remember correctly, I was criticized by the U.S. media. They asked why we should accept this system? I told them that the system was theirs, not ours. I believe the policy should be directed at getting information from the lower levels that can allow us to catch the big fish, that lead us to the real criminals. That is where the submitting to justice policy should be aimed. The changes we are proposing for the Penal Code should not be to increase penalties. No. We must develop the instruments to capture these criminals... [timer rings] and bring them to trial.

[Ernesto Samper] The drug trafficking issue is far more complex than that. There are four stages of drug trafficking: production of coca, stage two is the issue of trafficking in itself, consumption, and money laundering. I would propose a binational commission to seek solutions to each of these four stages, which are totally different in conception and solution.

[Rueda] Mr. Samper, let us move on to another issue, which we could call brother to this one: public security in Colombia. You have said, or I have heard that you have said, you will not negotiate with terrorists, kidnappers, those who plant land mines, or those who blow up oil pipelines. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the Army of National Liberation do these things. With whom will you talk? With whom will you negotiate? Or are you going to negotiate at all?

[Ernesto Samper] My, please do not be so definitive, Maria Isabel. I proposed that Colombia sign the Geneva Convention's Protocol II, which deals with the humanization of the war. Why? Because the first requirement for negotiating is creating a human rights system to protect civilians. It is as reproachable for a government soldier or a policeman, no matter where he or she may be, to violate the human rights of the people as it is for the guerrillas to do so. To this end, we must set up this framework. One cannot call blowing a small child's legs off an act of war, neither is kidnapping someone. If we sign Protocol II, we will be in a position to establish the difference a between a criminal and the subject of political negotiation. This is why my basic proposal calls for us to establish the difference between acts of war and those that harm the civilian population.

[Rueda] Mr. Pastrana, I ask you the same question, but with an additional note. I studied your government program as closely as I could, and I found on page 145 that you tend more toward a forceful solution, as I understand it, when you address the issue of guerrillas. You mention dialogue very superficially. What is your position on this?

[Pastrana] I think that the program must be read. I will tell you clearly what the program's proposal is: The government does not choose beetween war and peace, the government has to defend the Constitution and the laws. It is the guerrillas who must make a choice and decide for peace. Why don't the guerrillas tell the country what they want? The country does not know what the guerrillas want. Whenever I travel throughout the country, the people tell me that the guerrillas want power, or kidnappings, or to be paid tolls.

I am proposing that we have neither a high commissioner nor a medium commissioner. No more dialogues for the sake of dialogues. If the guerrillas tell us what they want, then I, as president of Colombia, am prepared to sit at the negotiating table and to talk with them. Once the guerrillas tell us what they want, I am prepared to invite international overseers, the international community, to come. Then we would have observers like the Catholic Church. I am sure that in this way we will have peace.

If the guerrillas do not tell us what they want, then we just have to continue implementing the Constitution and the laws which state that we have to protect the lives, the honor, and the property of Colombians. I am sure that the guerrillas will tell us what they want. I am sure that when I become president of Colombia we will sign peace agreements with them, along as they tell us that this is what they want.

[Maria Samper] Your turn, Dr. Samper.

[Ernesto Samper] With all due respect, I believe that plan is overly simplistic. I, as the president, will not wait until the guerrillas set the conditions and limits for a dialogue. I will take on the peace process myself. That peace process assumes the creation of conditions of understanding and the existence of respect for human rights, and social investment to counter violent elements. I do not agree with waiting for the guerrillas to set the conditions and parameters for negotiations, and to set the rules of the game vis-a-vis the state.

[Pastrana] I disagree completely. I believe Colombians are sick and tired of holding a dialogue just for the sake of it. We cannot go on with high or medium commissioners. I do not know if Dr. Samper wants to retain the plan recommended by his advisors and Horacio Serpa—to retain a high commissioner. I believe Colombians want to know what the guerrillas are after. I am positive that as soon as the guerrillas tell us that...

[Maria Samper, interrupting] But is that not dialogue?

[Pastrana, continuing] ...they are willing to negotiate peace, we will negotiate peace. We will sit at the negotiating table whenever they tell us what they want to do, when they express their willingness to end kidnappings and threats. I am confident we will be able to negotiate peace whenever they tell us what they want.

[Maria Samper] Dr. Pastrana, you want to hear the guerrillas out, but is that not dialogue?

[Pastrana] We want the guerrillas to tell us what they want. This is different from sitting down at the negotiating table. We want the guerrillas to tell us...

[Amat, interrupting] Do you want them to send you a letter?

[Pastrana, continuing] ...that is why Colombians and I are willing, provided the guerrillas tell us what they want, to sit down with them, as president of Colombia, and work together to achieve peace. I am willing to invite international overseers, international representatives, and the Catholic Church, and I am sure we will be able to negotiate peace.

[Ernesto Samper] I will not wait until the guerrillas tell me what they want. I will tell the guerrillas: Here is the government with the Armed Forces willing to fight a war, and here is a government that is truly willing to make peace. It is your choice.

[Amat] I am still not very clear on your positions. Will you or will you not talk with the guerrillas?

[Ernesto Samper] I will talk with the guerrillas insofar as I know it will be useful. I will not make the old mistake of sitting at a negotiating table for two years to end up empty-handed.

[Amat] Very well. The two leading themes in this electoral campaign have been unemployment and education. Unemployment in Colombia occurs mainly among high school graduates and professionals. Is not it contradictory to offer education and jobs when those in the unemployment lines are those who are in fact educated?

[Pastrana] My government plan is entirely based on employment—270 pages in which I address the nation on the need to make our economy more dynamic. Where am I trying to create jobs? We create jobs through building roads and highways, building aqueducts, developing the tourism industry, and developing health care. First, if we develop health care in Colombia, doctors will have jobs. If we build roads, engineers will have work, instead of driving cabs. Second, education is the foundation. I recall talking to the Singapore prime minister, who told me he was very thankful that God did not give them any natural resources because that had enabled them to focus on their human resources. Thus, I believe a country must invest in its people.

Forgive me for correcting you, Yamid, but the highest unemployment rate is among women and young people. This is why we have to create new opportunities, provide the people with an education. We are going to give all young people from ages five to 15 the opportunity to obtain a primary and a secondary school education. We are going to give credits to professionals who want to study and are unable to attend university classes because the better educated the people are, the better their salaries will be. I ask parents who are watching me right now: What is the best legacy we can leave to our children? I am sure that the answer is education. It is in this direction that we must head. This is our best resource: our people. We may have natural resources, but the most important resource is our people.

[Amat] Thank you. Dr. Samper.

[Ernesto Samper] Let us see: Do you know how many pages Dr. Pastrana dedicates to employment in his program? Two and one-quarter pages! He dedicates 0.72 percent of his program to employment. Everything can relate to employment, of course, but he does not view microenterprises, the recovery of the countryside, infrastructure, and social investment programs that I am proposing as job-generating programs. Why? Behind Dr. Pastrana's program there is this posture position that I respectfully do not share. It is the old development posture of the 1970's that was propounded a few years ago by the very illustrious Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, currently a partner of Dr. Pastrana. The position is: Let us watch the economy grow and generate jobs and just see what we can do.

Employment versus eduction. I do not know what will go through the minds of high school graduates who sell lottery tickets or through the minds of professionals who are driving taxis if we tell them: Look, you are qualified unemployed people—the unemployment rate of professional workers is twice as high as that of unskilled workers—just wait some 10 years until we educate everyone and then you will have the opportunity to get a job. This is not the way! The road is to resolve—as I am going to do—the unemployment problem right now. This does not mean we are not going to develop education. But right now the unemployment lists are full of qualified workers.

[Amat] Each has 30 seconds.

[Pastrana] I disagree with Dr. Samper. I think that what we have to do is to create opportunities for the people. If we build roads, engineers will be able to work. If we invest in health care, creating opportunities for all Colombians, doctors will have jobs. We have to create new opportunities. This is what we are proposing to the country—opportunities in the form of roads...

[Amat, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Pastrana] Please let me speak, Yamid. Opportunities in the form of roads. The television clock says I still have seven seconds, and you have been interrupting me. I still have 10 seconds. I say this respectfully.

[Amat] Please go ahead.

[Pastrana] We are investing in roads, education, potable water. This is the government program. The problem is that Dr. Samper has just read 0.2 percent of my program. I am going to give Dr. Samper a copy. You may take it home and read it and you will see that the entire program is a search for jobs for all Colombians.

[Ernesto Samper] Dr. Pastrana's disagreement does not bother me. To the contrary, if he did not disagree I would be worried. The truth is that he has stepped down from his program to climb onto mine. This does not bother me either. This is what he has been doing for the past six or seven months. What I find difficult is the idea of having to shoulder the two programs, but I am prepared to do it. Employment must be productive and it must be created, induced, and generated by the state. This cannot be an automatic process.

[Amat] Dr. Samper, I am sorry I have to interrupt you.

[Rueda] I am going to ask you a very simple little question. What one thing does your adversary have that you covet? In one word.

[Ernesto Samper] Certain charm that the country recognizes. Also that he has an excellent opponent in the upcoming elections.

[Rueda] What about you, Dr. Pastrana?

[Pastrana] I would begin by saying that Dr. Samper acknowledges the fact that he has a capable man like me, more capable than he, to govern Colombia. I covet his advisers, like Rodrigo Oparto and Marta Lucia Ramirez. I envy you that, Dr. Samper. Those are intelligent people who will have to work with us in the government.

[Rueda] One last question because we are running out of time. In this government, we have experienced a polemical situation centered on the presidential family. How does a president manage the presidential family? Presidents have brothers. There is a brother of Dr. Pastrana who is with him all the time. Dr. Samper has three brothers who work...

[Ernesto Samper, interrupting] Usually against me. [laughs]

[Rueda, laughing] My question is: Do you have any policy on how to handle your families while in the government? Dr. Samper?

[Ernesto Samper] Yes. My policy is contained in a code of ethics that says that relatives of a president, and of a candidate, as of today, cannot have any kind of direct or indirect commercial ties with the state. As simple as that.

[Pastrana] As I see it, ethics need no code. No member of my family will work in the government. None. I say this now. As I see it, we have our own ethics, and they can have no code. Rest assured that no member of my family will work in the government.

[Amat] Will you agree to another debate?

[Pastrana] Of course, anytime.

[Samper] Another one?! [Much laughter]

[Amat] Let us go to commercials. We will be back.

These are the final two minutes. Dr. Andres Pastrana: Why do you think Colombians should vote for you?

[Pastrana] First, my vice president will be Luis Fernando Ramirez, who has the ability to help me govern Colombia. Second, I propose new opportunities for the country. The country has a very important resource, its people. We have to invest in education and create new opportunities so that they may have good jobs and we may start changing Colombia.

I am not the candidate of political machinery. We are thinking about a new future, about new opportunities. I am glad to have my family—Nora, Santiago, Laura. The family represents values we need to recover in Colombia so that we, with trust in God and in His objectives, may recover our values and our families as the core of our society. We have a government program that has a main objective: promoting the people, an improved standard of living for our people, an economic program with a human face, as I call it. I am sure this can be done with the help of all the Colombians. I am not going to ask you just to vote for me on 29 May, I am going to invite all of you to work for the good of Colombia.

[Amat] The end of the program has been [word indistinct]. Dr. Samper, why do you think Colombians should vote for you?

[Ernesto Samper] I thank Yamid, Maria Elvira, and Maria Isabel for the debate. This has been the true debate. This was not a contrived debate but a debate on essence, on theses.

I hope Colombians have been able to establish that there are two clear alternatives for 29 May. Mine is that of socially-oriented capitalism, which will give subsidies back to farmers and will provide jobs for the young, that will decidedly invest in society.

I invite all of you to participate actively. Once I was the victim of violence like many other Colombians. Thank God, I won a second chance at life, and I want to use this second opportunity God has given me to help many Colombians have at least one opportunity to succeed. Thank you very much.

[Amat] Thanks to Daniel Coronel and to journalists from the two news teams. Maria Isabel has something to say.

[Rueda] Maria Elvira and I just want to thank the two candidates.

Ecuador

Workers Detain Minister, Clash With Police

PA1405004594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2250 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Quito, 13 May (NOTIMEX)—A meeting called by the government to remove the director of the Ecuadoran Social Security Institute [IESS] turned violent today, sparking street disturbances that resulted in 18 people being injured and a minister being detained by workers.

Social Welfare Minister Alberto Cardenas was detained at the IESS headquarters by angry union leaders and workers who demanded his resignation. Cardenas presided over the meeting of IESS officials which culminated at noon with the removal of IESS Director General Italo Colamarco, accused of corruption and incompetence.

While the two-hour meeting was being held, hundreds of IESS employees clashed in the streets of Quito with the police who, according to reporters, resorted to a "brutal repression." The clashes occurred in streets near the Zarzuela building in northern Quito, headquarters of the IESS General Directorate and Higher Council, which sustained heavy damage.

Despite the presence of a large number of police, a group of IESS labor leaders and employees entered the building and reached the meeting room. They interrupted the meeting in which Jose Maria Aguirre, a close friend of the Ecuadoran president, was being sworn in as the new IESS director and seized the social welfare minister. Amid the confusion and the arguments with the government representatives in the Higher Council, the leaders demanded that Minister Cardenas submit his resignation. The minister replied he was willing to resign and "go home" if the IESS union leadership did the same and resigned immediately.

Meanwhile, the street disturbances continued. The police used tear gas to control the demonstrators "with excessive force." The demonstrators responded by throwing sticks and rocks. According to reporters and union leaders, the incidents left at least 18 injured, some from firearms, and many persons under arrest. The Red Cross reported that the injured included two local reporters and a cameraman who were hit by rocks and blunt objects.

The crisis in the IESS leadership intensified this week when Minister Cardenas and Colamarco accused each other of incompetence and corruption. The new scandal in the IESS led to Colamarco's removal. He was the fifth director in 21 months in the administration of conservative President Sixto Duran-Ballen. Cardenas, who took office as minister in January, said the removed official was an obstacle to the modernization and reorganization of the IESS.

Union leaders say that Cardenas and the government are undertaking a campaign to discredit the IESS workers to bring about its bankruptcy and justify its privatization.

Workers Report on Injuries

PA1405004794 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 May 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Excerpt] Union leaders reported that at least five IESS employees were injured in a clash with police when they were protesting government plans to privatize the IESS. A union leader said the injuries were inflicted by members of the security forces during an act of brutal repression in which tear gas and police sticks were used. I want to express my strong condemnation of this criminal repression, the leader said. Five of our fellow workers were injured solely for the crime of defending social security, he added. [passage omitted]

Peru

Text of Approved 'Habeas Data' Law

PY1305011594 Lima EL PERUANO (Legal Supplement) in Spanish 3 May 94 p 122750

[Text of Law No. 26301 on the application of Habeas Data]

[Text] Law No. 26301

CONSIDERING THAT:
The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] has approved the following Law:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
Hereby decrees:

Article 1. Until a specific Law on the subject is dictated, any petition concerning the Habeas Data Constitutional Guarantee mentioned in Clause No. 3 of Article No. 200 of the Constitution may be heard, at the plaintiff's choice, by a lower civil court of either the venue where the plaintiff resides; or of where the mechanical, automatic [telematicos], magnetic, informatic, or similar records are located; or of the venue corresponding to the address of the defendant, irrespective of whether the defendant is an individual or a corporation, a public or private company.

If the violation of rights stems from court records, be they of a jurisdictional, functional, or administrative nature, no matter where and how they are stored, the case will be heard by the respective Civil Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice, which will appoint a lower court judge to handle the procedure. The lower court will then hand down the first ruling in this case. This same precept will apply to functional or administrative archives of the Attorney General's Office.

Article 2. The court ruling will merely order the publication of the rectification requested by the plaintiff, who must have attached the wording of it to his original petition. If he fails to do so, the court will offhandedly dismiss the petition. The rectification—which must be reasonable and proportionate to the offending article—will be published free of charge within three days after the ruling has become final. Failure to do so will result in violation of the law.

Any disagreement regarding the rectification, its proportionality, and its content will be decided on by the corresponding judge or civil chamber of the Superior Court, after hearing the defendant within three days. The judge must correct or restrict the requested rectification whenever it entails a rebuttal or viewpoint that surpasses the limits of a mere rectification. Although the aggrieved party may appeal, the ruling will stand until it is reversed by a higher court.

Article 3. Provisions applicable to Laws No. 23506, 25011, 25315, 25398, and Decree Law No. 25433, and everything referring to the right of Amparo, with the exception of the provisions of Article No. 11 of Law No. 23506, will be applicable to the Habeas Data Constitutional Guarantee in case of procedural loopholes.

Article 4. The provisions contained in the above articles will also be applicable to the constitutional guarantee known as Action of Compliance that is mentioned in Clause 6 of Article 200 of the Constitution until the appropriate implementing law is promulgated. In this case, the provisions contained in Article 11 of Law 23506 will be applied when necessary.

Article 5. In addition to what is provided for in Article 27 of Law 23506 and supplementary instruments, a petition for a Compliance Action Constitutional Guarantee will require the following prior steps:

A. In the case of a habeas data petition based on Clauses 5 and 6 of Article 2 of the Constitution, the request should first be made through a notary public no less than 15 calendar days in advance, with the exceptions provided for in the Constitution and in the laws.

B. In the case of a Habeas Data petition based on Clause 7 of Article 2 of the Constitution, the request should first be made through a notary public no less than five calendar days in advance of the publication of the corresponding rectification; and

C. In the case of an Action of Compliance, the request will be made through a notary public to the pertinent authority asking him to discharge what is considered to be his duty under the law, or the fulfillment of the appropriate administrative action or undertaking no less than 15 days in advance. Honoring this request will not exempt the official from his responsibilities under the law.

Article 6. A request concerning the Habeas Data Constitutional Guarantee will be directed against the legal representative of the respective institution or corporation, except when the action is directed against an individual. In the latter case, the individual will be summoned directly without this having any bearing on the provisions of Article 12 of Law 25398.

To this end, legally constituted media organizations, irrespective of the type of communication used—whether oral, written, radio, press, or television—can name a Special Judicial Representative, through a notarial deed, who will have the full right, on the merit of his naming, to the powers outlined in Articles 74 and 75 of the Civil Code, and no pact to the contrary could be used to interfere with these powers. He will be empowered to act in the name the media that has been summoned or in the name of its editors, officials, journalists, or employees in general even if they have been summoned as individuals. The individual that is summoned by name will be held legally accountable for his action.

The appointment of the special judicial representative need not be registered in the public rosters, and his actions will be fully valid, even though his naming has been previously revoked, until the appropriate court or chamber has been informed of this fact.

The authorization to empower a judicial representative will also be extended to the actions pertaining to crimes against honor (defamation, insult, or slander) when the crime is attributed to a media organization.

Article 7. The Constitutional guarantee of the Action of Compliance will be directly attended to by the official or agency in charge of the required action. If the agency or official could not be identified, or if there is no certainty as to who should attend to it, the action will be directed to a more senior superior without prejudice to what has been established in Article 12 of Law No. 25398.

Temporary Provision

A. Habeas Data petitions filed before the present law becomes effective, on which no ruling has yet been handed down by a judicial authority having a different specialty from the one described under Article 1 of the present law, will be officially and under liability turned over to the civil first instance judge who was on duty on the date the request was filed;

B. Habeas Data petitions that had been filed before the present law becomes effective, and rejected by a final judicial ruling, will have full effect. Those petitions on which no final ruling has been passed will be turned over to the judicial authority hearing those cases pursuant to what has been stipulated in the above paragraph;

C. Habeas Data petitions approved by a final judicial ruling issued by a judicial authority other than the one indicated under Article 1 before the present law becomes effective will continue with its procedure before the said authority. These petitions will be dealt with and settled pursuant to the rules of procedure set forth for a writ of Amparo and the present law pursuant to the provisions of Article 2 of this law.

FINAL PROVISION

The present law will come into force on the day subsequent to its publication in the EL PERUANO DIARIO OFICIAL.

Let it be known to the President of the Republic for its publication.

In Lima, 18 April 1994.

Jaime Yoshiyama
President of the Democratic Constituent Congress

TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
Hence:
I order it to be published and enforced.
Given at Government House, in Lima, on 2 May 1994.
Alberto Fujimori Fujimori
Constitutional president of the Republic

Fernando Vega Santa Gadea
Justice minister

Citizens' Participation Rights Law

PY1205160594 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 3 May 94 Legal Supplement p 122748

[Text of citizens participation rights law, promulgated in Lima on 2 May]

[Text] Law No. 26300 on the Right of Citizens to Participate and to Exercise Control

The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] has enforced the following Law:

Title I
General Provisions
Chapter I
On the Right of Citizens to Participate and to Exercise Control

Article 1. This law regulates the exercise of the right of citizens to participate and to exercise control in line with the Constitution.

Article 2. The following are citizens' participation rights:

a. to propose initiatives for amending the Constitution;

b. to propose initiatives for creating laws;

c. to participate in referendums;

d. to propose initiatives for creating municipal and regional mechanisms; and,

e. to engage in other participation mechanisms that are provided for in this law for regional and municipal governments.

Article 3. The following are citizens' control rights:

a. to cancel officials' designations;

b. to dismiss officials;

c. to demand the rendering of accounts; and,

d. to engage in other control mechanisms that are provided for in this law for regional and municipal governments.

Article 4. The request to begin a procedure must be filed with the electoral authorities. The request will be accompanied by the corresponding proposed initiative and a list of the names, identification card numbers, signatures or fingerprints of those who sponsor the initiative, as well as their common domicile for the purpose of the initiative.

Article 5. The electoral authorities will establish how physically disabled citizens who cannot sign, or illiterate citizens, will exercise their participation rights.

Article 6. After receiving a request for initiation of the procedure, the electoral authorities will check the authenticity of the signatures and will issue the appropriate certificates.

Article 7. The citizens' participation and control rights referred to in Paragraphs d. and e. of Article 2, and in Paragraph d. of Article 3 of this law, and the referendum on regional and municipal regulations, will be regulated by the organic laws of regional and municipal governments.

Chapter II
On the Presentation of Initiatives

Article 8. If the signatures and if the subscribers' right to vote in the corresponding electoral district in which the initiative has been proposed are found to be within the law, the electoral authorities will issue a resolution granting the citizens' request and including in it, as appropriate, the text of the project if the initiative has regulations, the background report accompanying the proposal if the initiative seeks to cancel officials' designations or to dismiss them, the list of questions in case of a request to render accounts, or the regulatory matter that will be subject to a referendum.

Article 9. The sponsors of the initiative may designate representatives before every electoral organ to witness and supervise all the steps of the process.

Article 10. If after checking the list of subscribers, their number fails to reach the minimum value, the sponsors will have an additional period of up to 30 days for completing the list with the requested number of subscribers. Title II
On Specific Regulations
Of Proposed Laws

Article 11. All proposed laws consisting of one or more draft bills, accompanied by the certified signatures of no less that 0.3 percent of all voters, will be granted preferential treatment by Congress. Congress orders its publication in the official gazette.

Article 12. The right to propose the drafting of laws encompasses all subjects with the same limitations that legislators have on tax and budget issues. The proposed law is drafted in a bill format.

Article 13. Congress drafts and votes on the draft bill within a 120-day deadline.

Article 14. Those who sponsor the proposed law can appoint two representatives to argue and defend it before the congressional drafting committees and, if the case warrants it, before the reviewing committee.

Article 15. If there are one or more draft bills on the same subject as that proposed by citizens, they will be grouped together. This, however, does not mean that the authority of those who sponsored the proposal or who represent it is disavowed.

Article 16. Draft bills rejected by Congress may be submitted to a referendum in compliance with this law. Moreover, if sponsors believe that prior to its approval the law has suffered substantial modifications distorting its main objectives, they may request a referendum to consult citizens on its approval.

Chapter II
On Proposed Constitutional Reform

Article 17. The right to propose the partial or complete reform of the constitution requires the support of 0.3 percent of all voters.

Article 18. A constitutional reform proposed by citizens must abide by the same rules of procedure established for bills proposed by legislators.

Article 19. Any proposed constitutional reform curtailing citizens' rights established in Article 2 of the Peruvian Constitution is inappropriate.

Chapter III
On the Removal and Dismissal of Authorities

Article 20. Citizens are empowered to remove from office the following officials:

a. Mayors and Government Magistrates [Regidores];

b. Elected regional officials;

c. Elected civil servants.

Article 21. Citizens are empowered to remove elected officials from office. It is inappropriate to remove them during the first and last year of their government term, except elected judiciary officials.

A request for removal concerns a specific official. The request must be argued but need not be proven.

The National Election Board will call a referendum, which must be held within 90 days of the formal filing of a request.

Article 22. A referendum will be held in a constituency if 25 percent of its constituents, with a maximum of 400,000 signatures, file a request with the appropriate office in charge of electoral proceedings for the removal of one of their elected officials.

Article 23. The removal will take place if an affirmative vote by the absolute majority of the constituents so decides. Otherwise, the authority on whom the removal from office has been referred to popular vote will remain in his/her post. A new request can only be filed two years after said vote.

Article 24. The National Election Board will appoint the runner-up on the same party's ticket as the official who has been removed from office to fill the vacancy until the end of tenure, with the exception of justices of the peace.

Article 25. New elections will be called only if the removal of more than one-third of the members of the Municipal Council has been confirmed. Alternate members may fill in until replacements for those removed from office are nominated. The same procedure will be followed if one-third of the directly elected members of the Regional Coordination Council are removed. Those who replace the ousted members will complete the latter's tenure.

Article 26. In the case of ousted elected judiciary officials, the National Election Board will proceed pursuant to the law that deals with this subject.

Article 27. Authorities appointed by the central or regional governments under regional, departmental, provincial, or district jurisdiction are removable. Political-Military chiefs in state-of-emergency areas are exempted.

Article 28. Dismissal will take place only when the National Election Board can attest that more than 50 percent of citizens from a constituency or judicial district request so.

Article 29. An elected official who has been removed from office is qualified to run for the same elected post in the next elections.

Article 30. The official who has been dismissed from office may not resume the same post for five years.

Chapter IV
On the Demand of Rendering of Accounts

Article 31. Through the rendering of accounts, citizens have the right to interpellate authorities about the execution of the budget and the use of budget funds. Authorities are obliged to answer. Those who occupy positions subject to removal and dismissal are subject to this demand of rendering of accounts.

The funds to which Article 170 of the Constitution refer to are subject to rendering of accounts according to the pertaining law.

Article 32. The interpellation form must contain questions exclusively related with the subjects included in the former article. Each question must be made in a clear, precise manner on the pertaining subject.

Article 33. The National Election Board must verify that the interpellation form contains appropriate, inoffensive wording.

Article 34. The rendering of accounts must be called for by at least 20 percent, with a maximum 50,000 signatures, of the voting population in the respective voting district.

Article 35. Once the rendering of accounts is demanded, the National Election Board must inform the authorities of its reception so that it may clearly and directly answer the interpellation form within 60 calendar days.

Article 36. The authorities requested to render accounts must publish the interpellation form together with the answers to it.

Chapter V
On the Referendum and Popular Consultations

Article 37. A referendum is the citizens' right to express their opinion, according to the Constitution, on the regulations of the subjects on which they are consulted.

Article 38. A referendum may be requested by an amount of citizens not less than 10 percent of the national voting population.

Article 39. A referendum is applicable in the following cases:

a. The total or partial amendment of the Constitution, according to Article 206 of the Constitution.

b. To approve laws, general regional regulations, and municipal provisions.

c. To disapprove laws, legislative and urgent decrees, as well as norms to which the former clause refer.

d. To the subjects described in Article 190 of the Constitution, according to a special law.

Article 40. The matters and regulations mentioned in the second paragraph of Article 32 of the Constitution may not be subject to a referendum.

Article 41. If Congress rejects or substantially modifies the proposed legislation, the terms of this law may be applied to request initiation of a referendum process, adding the necessary number of signatures to complete the legally required number of votes.

Article 42. The result of the referendum will determine the enforcement of the approved regulations, or the repeal of the rejected regulations, provided the decision is backed by 50 percent plus one, without counting blank or null votes. The result will be valid only if backed by no fewer than 30 percent of the total number of voters, and will come into force on the day after publication of the official results by the National Election Board.

Article 43. Regulations approved through a referendum may not be modified within two years after their enforcement, except by a new referendum or by a Congressional decision upholding the modification in two congressional periods of sessions, with the approving vote of two thirds of the legal number of congressmen. If the result of the referendum is negative, the initiative may not be again proposed for two years after the referendum.

Article 44. The electoral authority will call for the referendum within four months of the approval of respective initiative.

Chapter VI
Final Provisions

Article 45. The call for electoral processes for the exercise of the political rights established by this law may be postponed by the electoral authority in case of proximity of general, regional, or municipal elections. In such case, the process may be implemented simultaneously or within the next four months.

Article 46. The electoral authority may accumulate approved initiatives and jointly submit them for consultation or to accompany other electoral processes.

Article 47. The sponsors of initiatives that result in the issuance of regulations, laws, or Constitutional amendments; or requests for canceling officials' designations or for dismissing officials; and the requests for referendum to repeal regulations or to approve a legislation proposal that was rejected or substantially modified by Congress, may request the reimbursement of expenses incurred before the electoral authority and for advertising, in keeping with the budgetary availabilities of the National Election Board, and in the form established by the National Election Board.

It is so ordered.
Lima, on the 18th day of April of the year 1994.

[Signed] Jaime Yoshiyama
CCD President

[Signed] Carlos Torres y Torres Lara
CCD First Vice President

I therefore order the publication and enforcement of this law.

Signed in Government House in Lima, on the 2d day of May of the year 1994

[Signed] Alberto Fujimori Fujimori
Constitutional President of the Republic

[signed] Fernando Vega Santa Gadea
Justice Minister

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Abreu Outlines Foreign Policy

PY1305183294 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 3 May 94 p 4

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu's foreign policy seeks the removal of Brazilian subsidies on milk—subsidies that harm our interests. He has already lodged the appropriate diplomatic protest. Negotiations with

Argentina over the signing of an agreement on the dredging of the Martin Garcia channel have been enhanced. Other very important issues like border agreements to remove environmental pollution and the pollution of border rivers like the Cuareim River, the Yaguaron River, and the Merin Lake will be discussed with the Brazilian foreign minister and the Rio Grande do Sul governor during a meeting to be held within the next few days in the city of Canela.

Minister Sergio Abreu and a small group of advisers yesterday held a working breakfast with journalists to thoroughly inform them of the developments of current diplomatic work and negotiations, not just with the neighboring countries, but specially with the EU, Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

The meeting served to become better acquainted with the development of all these important issues and to confirm the new style implemented by Abreu in his role as the "manager of our foreign policy," as he described his activities at the Foreign Ministry. A basic element of his activities involves "developing our land and river borders" with Brazil and Argentina.

Abreu discussed the recent GATT conference, the results of which were unsatisfactory for many countries. This was called the Uruguay Round. It took more than seven years to complete.

He pointed out that even though no concessions were received directly from the great powers, positive results were achieved laterally and a trade war which would have had "regrettable consequences for the entire world" was prevented.

Abreu specifically discussed the developments of a Rio Group meeting held in Sao Paulo during which the member countries agreed to enhance their relationship with the EU. In a brief review, he mentioned the new international political agreements on security issues, the new OAS policy and the election of the OAS secretary general, and especially the relationship with the political blocs of Asia where Uruguay has been enhancing its presence and its direct relationship policy.

The foreign minister harbors no doubts that all countries were dissatisfied with the GATT results. Nevertheless, there is a greater willingness to negotiate—a willingness that did not exist before—following the inclusion of groups that were not GATT members. This represents the beginning of a multilateral approach for a global trade relationship that used to be governed by group agreements. This involves a new relationship, even though it does not include the agricultural and livestock-producing countries. The current protectionist apparatus will be dismantled within six years, following the closure date of the Uruguay Round. [passage omitted]

A proposal that is still being studied by the area countries seeks to link Alaska with Tierra del Fuego. This proposal aroused great expectations among NAFTA countries and countries from other existing blocs. It is similar to the new European Union which has been developing with internal problems that include an extremely high unemployment rate, growing economic recession, and the need to increase its area of influence following the socialist collapse.

The foreign minister emphasized that the EU's firm goal is to reach our area through Mercosur [Common Market of the South] to which it ships a significant quantity of manufactured products and from which it receives agricultural products and raw materials.

Another significant point is that 40 percent of the banks operating in Latin America are European. [passage omitted]

Discussing Argentina's initial contact with NAFTA—which Argentina intends to join—Abreu emphasized that it is impossible for Argentina to join NAFTA because the current rules prevent it and because Argentina would have to grant all the advantages to the other ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] and Mercosur countries. Discussing increased trade in the Mercosur area, Abreu emphasized that trade grew from $3 to $9 billion, which gives an idea of the dynamics among the four member countries. Brazil was the great beneficiary of this trade growth.

The foreign minister emphasized that a protest has been lodged with the Brazilian Foreign Ministry over the attitude on tariff reductions for milk and milk by-products. This represents a clearly competitive attitude that is harmful to other Mercosur partners, as in our case.

A response is expected within a short period of time. The foreign minister believes it will be favorable to our claims. Otherwise, other negotiations that are under way may be delayed and our producers, who have already been warned about all this, may be harmed. [passage omitted]

Concerning the particular issues Uruguay has pending with its two neighbors, Abreu briefly pointed out that a contract for dredging the Martin Garcia Channel will be signed within a few days and notes on the advanced payment of the binational Salto Grande hydroelectric dam project will be exchanged soon. The issues pending with Brazil include the Cuareim and Yaguaron Rivers and the Merin Lake, the cleaning up of the cities linking our two countries, environmental protection, and the joint development of the Merin Lake and Yaguaron River basins and a new bridge linking Rio Branco with Yaguaron.

Angel Maria Gianola Appointed Interior Minister

PY1405022194 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpt] Angel Maria Gianola will be installed as new interior minister on 17 May. On that day current Interior

Minister Raul Iturria will leave his post. In the past few hours Iturria confirmed his resignation to President Luis Alberto Lacalle.

President Lacalle will meet with Gianola on the morning of 16 May to make the nomination official. Gianola told Carve that he will not change the policies implemented by his predecessor Iturria. He also confirmed that Ignacio Risso will become interior under secretary, and that all police chiefs will be reconfirmed in their present positions. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Government Opposes Military Action in Haiti

PA1405182094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1718 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 14 May (EFE)—Venezuela will not support a military intervention in Haiti, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today in Caracas. The government, however, supports pressure tactics to restore democracy in that Caribbean nation.

According to the spokesman, Venezuela will not join any armed multinational force or support a unilateral decision by the United States if that country decides to intervene in Haiti.

Venezuela is the only Latin American country that belongs to the Group of Friends of Haiti, which comprises the United States, France, and Canada.

The possibility of an armed intervention in Haiti has gained strength after the military who toppled head of state Jean-Bertrand Aristide appointed a puppet president. This week the military, led by Raoul Cedras, who headed the coup, appointed Supreme Court Justice Emile Jonassaint president, something the United Nations and the OAS have rejected. The United Nations agreed to tighten the economic sanctions on the Haitian military regime as of 21 May.

Interior Minister: Conditions Not Right for Guerrilla Resurgence

PA1305163394 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from the "180 Minutes of News" newscast]

[Text] According to Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom, the conditions are not right in Venezuela for a guerrilla resurgence. The minister denied that a guerrilla movement in response to the country's situation. He said the Americo Silva Guerrilla Front was the last rebel organization of its kind to exist in Venezuela since the sixties. The minister also expressed his satisfaction with the Front's decision to adopt a legal, democratic coexistence.

Regarding the student disturbances of the past few days, Escobar Salom called on the protesters to reflect and to advocate change without disrupting peace and by preserving tranquillity.

[Begin Escovar recording] I want to impress upon the various social sectors that violence is not going to improve this or any other problem. The government, therefore, while it favors this democratic dialogue, wants to emphasize to Venezuelan society the necessity of peaceful coexistence. That is the government's purpose, and it is also the government's purpose to strongly and firmly confront, as it is doing now, the disturbances, aggressions, and attacks on citizens' rights. The government must defend the rights of all citizens and cannot allow minority groups to attack the social peace and rights of others: the right to have property and the right to own or rent a vehicle, bus, or truck, as is the right of Venezuelan workers, so they can circulate freely and peacefully on the streets, avenues, or highways. [end recording]

Minister Escovar Salom said the situation is totally under control and emphatically affirmed that the government will deal harshly and unhesitatingly to control these incidents, which in his opinion do not compromise the country's political or institutional stability.

The truth of the matter is that the famous sinister force which Minister Escobar Salom accuses of being the main motor of the student disturbances has thus far not appeared and its whereabouts are unknown.

Military Court To Probe Student Disturbances

PA1305163094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by Alexander Barrios from the "180 Minutes of News" newscast]

[Text] Colonel Ramon Moreno Natera, second permanent military judge of Caracas, will head a military court investigation into the student disturbances in Caracas. Heavy shooting took place inside the Central University of Venezuela [UCV] on Thursday following almost five hours of student disturbances in the street near the university that leads to Venezuela Plaza. There was machine-gun and light automatic weapon fire at approximately 1845 on Thursday evening. Two fragmentation grenades were thrown at the numerous members of the Special Metropolitan Police Brigade posted around the university premises. The demonstrators fired on water trucks and riot vehicles, hitting them over 30 times during the heavy shooting that came from inside the UCV.

According to Emilio Delgado, who was in command of the Special Metropolitan Police Brigade, the individuals—who might be termed subversives—used light automatic rifles, machine guns with tripods, and fragmentation grenades. Judge Ramon Moreno Natera may conduct an on-scene inspection of the metropolitan police vehicles hit and of buildings surrounding the UCV, such as the bridge over the Francisco Fajardo freeway.

It was also learned that Carlos Luis Hernandez, 21, who has a criminal record for homicide, was arrested following the heavy shooting. He will be turned over to the Judicial Technical Police and will later be remanded to the orders of the 2d Permanent Military Court of Caracas, because the weapons used in the shooting presumably belonged to the national Armed Forces.

Newspaper Report Cites Alleged Coup Plot

PA1405042894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0250 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 13 May (Notimex)—There was concern in Venezuela today due to reports of a plot to stage a coup d'etat against the administration of President Rafael Caldera, who is facing growing social unrest.

Newspapers assert that Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez Frias, leader of the coup attempt in February 1992, has reported that ranking military officers are planning a coup d'etat.

The report, published in an EL NACIONAL column, pointed out that the Caldera administration and the economic and political elite are perfectly aware of the situation and that they even have the name of a military leader who may be involved in the conspiracy.

According to columnist Alfredo Pena, Armed Forces officers told Chavez Frias that a coup d'etat would be staged by high command members and that the Interior Ministry has been informed. This is the first rumor that Caldera's administration has had to deal with, added to which are the remarks of Defense Minister Rafael Montero, who said today that Venezuela is on the verge of a civil war.

Although his remarks would seem to point to the armed attacks on policemen during a demonstration at a university campus, analysts have not dismissed the possibility that Montero's assertion had some other connotation. In the opinion of analyst Alfredo Pena, "it is all very confusing, and the government should remain alert. The economic, fiscal, and financial crises have caused widespread anger among the people, but an insurrection would not be justified. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Pena added that the Executive has made serious mistakes in the handling of the crisis it inherited from the social democratic administrations of the past 10 years, but that does not justify the rejection of all attempts to resolve such a serious problem.

Deputies from the opposition Radical Cause Party (CR) and the Movement Toward Socialism requested a thorough investigation to determine the veracity of Chavez's report and, in any event, to reveal the names of the people responsible for the plot.

Alfredo Pena said that a military coup at this time would unleash a series of actions and reactions out of fear and that there would be a blood bath "because in Venezuela there is no chance of a plain coup."

In contrast, Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom said that, despite the wave of student demonstrations that degenerated into riots and plunder during the week, for the time being there is no possibility of a coup d'etat.

According to the EL NACIONAL columnist, "there are civilian instigators" who are taking advantage of the wave of marches, which are also to protest against the high cost of living and the lack of services.